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Annual Report
of the Official Statistics Authority
2018

Written by Claudine Gasnier
ASP Rapporteur
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Institutional Framework and Composition of the Official Statistics Authority

The institutional framework of official statistics in France was modernised by the Law on the Modernisation of the Economy (LME) of 4 August 2008. In addition, Article 1 of Law no. 51-711 of 7 June 1951 on obligations, coordination and confidentiality in statistical matters, as amended by Organic Law no. 2010 of 28 June 2010, established the Official Statistics Authority.

The institutional framework of official statistics in France is based on three pillars.

The National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) provides a forum for users and producers of official statistics. In this way, it sheds light on the new needs for information. It organises the programme of official statistics projects and suggests new avenues to ensure that societal issues are dealt with as thoroughly as possible.

The CNIS is chaired by Mr Patrice Duran.

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

On 31 December 2018, it comprises INSEE and 16 Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs). It is coordinated by INSEE.

INSEE is headed by Mr 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.

It draws up an annual report on official statistical activity, which is submitted to the French Parliament and made public. This report covers 2018, the tenth year of existence of the Authority.

Decree no. 2018-800 of 20 September 2018 amending Decree no. 2009-250 of 3 March 2019 relating to the ASP

Composition of the Official Statistics Authority

(notice published in the Official Journal of 24 February 2018)

Mr Dominique Bureau, President, appointed by a decree of the Council of Ministers of 9 April 2015, who took over from Mr Paul Champsaur.

Mr Abdeldjellil Bouzidi, appointed by the President of the National Assembly

Mr Denis Badré, appointed by the President of the Senate

Ms Patricia Blanchard, appointed by the President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council

M. Jean-Éric Schoettl, President of the Statistical Confidentiality Committee, appointed by the Vice-President of the Council of State

Mr Éric Dubois, appointed by the First President of the Court of Accounts

Mr François Auvigne, appointed by the Department Head of the General Inspectorate of Finances

Ms Anne-Marie Brocas, appointed by the Head of the General Inspectorate of Social Affairs

Mr Bruno Durieux, appointed by the Minister for the Economy and Finance

Preface

For the Official Statistics Authority (ASP), the year 2018 was marked by the publication of Decree no. 2018-800, which reformulates the conditions under which it exercises its mission. The Authority's role with regard to compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice is more clearly stated and a watertight partition is established to separate the dissemination of statistics from any ministerial communication. The ASP will now issue an opinion when the most senior managers of France's statistical service are appointed, for the attention of the hearing committee dealing with the appointment. This opinion will of course concern only the professional competence in the field of statistics of the persons being considered for the position.

This more precise institutional framework will enable the Authority to ensure more effectively that the principle of professional independence is respected in the design, production and dissemination of official statistics.

However, the improvement of the framework of the ASP's mission would have a limited impact if the control exercised were not an effective source of progress and if were not part of an overall momentum combining professional independence and a better response to users' needs. Even more important therefore are the findings developed in this report on the actions undertaken by the official statistical service to consolidate quality in statistical work, modernise the surveys, improve the service provided to users and anticipate the expectations of different types of public.

From this point of view, the efforts undertaken to improve citizens' statistical culture and raise the awareness of professional users (in particular in the media) of the correct use of statistics is becoming a crucial issue, given the growing influence of social media and the speed at which false information liable to discredit official statistics can spread. This is why the ASP is encouraging the official statistical service to pursue and increase its efforts.

In terms of results, the developments implemented in 2018 are significant, with, for example, the conclusion of the process of alignment concerning quarterly employment estimates or the posting online of the dashboard of French sustainable development indicators. On the other hand, it has become clear that the improvements concerning local statistics do not yet make it possible to satisfactorily cover the objective requirements in this field, which are legitimately high. If official statistics are to fully accomplish their mission of making quality information available to anyone and everyone for the purposes of decision-making, research and public debate, the statistics concerning this information must be of a comparable level to what is produced by the other economic agents.

To meet ever more diverse requirements, it is furthermore necessary to draw on all the administrative sources available, in particular series produced outside the official statistics system. The ASP therefore attaches great importance to the quality labelling of this type of series, with the very precious assistance of the Labelling Committee which examines them. An example of this work in 2018 was the approval by the ASP of the "Notaries/INSEE" indices relating to the prices of existing housing stock outside Paris, such that the data covering the entire territory are now all quality-labelled.

The President of the Official Statistics Authority

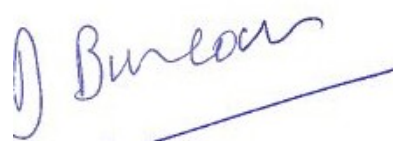
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bureau", with a horizontal line underneath it.

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The Authority's opinion¹ on the production of official statistics

1- In 2018, the Official Statistics Authority (ASP) did not observe any breaches of the principle of professional independence in the design, production and dissemination of official statistics.

There were no embargo breaches. With some exceptions (which should disappear in the first half of 2019), the corresponding rules and the publication calendars are disseminated, and the monitoring of late dissemination has not revealed any problems relating to the independence of the services.

Quality procedures were applied or are in progress for most of INSEE's major statistical processes. The ministerial statistical offices (MSOs) signed roadmaps intended to map out their statistical processes and apply quality procedures.

Finally, legal frameworks have been specified for the use of data, with the entry into force of the new data protection regulation (GDPR).

2- Two issues concerning the general operational framework of the official statistical service need to be raised, however.

The first concerns the decrees defining the roles and responsibilities of the MSOs. It is important that, at this level, statistical scope covered should be specified and that the principle of professional independence be mentioned as well as the coordinating role of INSEE.

The second concerns the introduction of Data Protection Officers (DPOs) for the application of the GDPR, as they will be, among other things, the points of contact with the CNIL. In this respect, a ministry-by-ministry approach has been opted for, and so there is no specific DPO dedicated to statistics. Nevertheless, the nature of the data is also decisive in dealing with these issues and it is important, both from the operational point of view and in relation to the purpose of the GDPR, that the specificities of the statistical data should be taken into account and dealt with in a homogeneous manner by INSEE and in the different ministerial statistical offices (MSOs). It will therefore be necessary to check that this fragmented organisation for statistics operates effectively.

3- The progress made on consolidating professional independence does not mean that official statistics are not under some pressure, with criticism and controversy possible concerning certain methods or results. In this respect, although the work done to get a better understanding of gaps between the different statistics on the labour market has restored confidence in this area, the year 2018 was marked by questions on the measurement of purchasing power, in spite of the efforts made to get a better grasp of unavoidable or pre-committed expenditure or the differences between perceptions and objective measurements. INSEE was quick and responsive in providing appropriate explanations to the questions raised.

However, as is more generally suggested by the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB), given the speed at which false information liable to discredit official statistics can spread, the Authority is encouraging the official statistical service (SSP) to develop a more proactive communication strategy to help its users to distinguish between reliable statistics and false information with the aim of guaranteeing public trust. In this respect, the functioning of the SSP's websites constitutes a major issue, it being essential that the development of search engines allowing easier access to its diverse outputs cannot be to the detriment of access to the structured data that constitute the core statistics, which are more particularly of interest to regular users.

4- The opinion on statistical output in 2017 expressed concern about risks relating to the adequacy of the budgetary resources made available to INSEE to perform its tasks, emphasising the need for foreseeability of resources so that projects of an "industrial" nature can be carried out. On this point, the 2019 budget and the

¹ This opinion summarises the information presented in Part 1 of the Official Statistics Report in 2018.

fact that INSEE is participating in experiments in multi-year contractualisation with the Budget Directorate and the Secretariat General of the economic and finance ministries have provided some responses, although the reduction in its workforce demanded of INSEE is certainly demanding and requires productivity gains, but this should not prevent it from carrying out its tasks, and in some cases, developing them. For all that, outside of recurrent or contractually scheduled surveys, the Authority has noted that INSEE is only able to conduct one extra survey per year, whereas many needs are emerging for the SSP on sensitive subjects such as substandard and insecure housing or illiteracy, for example.

The Authority therefore encourages the SSP to to pursue its efforts to make the most efficient use of its resources, taking advantage of the possible productivity gains by using the Internet in particular for its surveys whenever possible, whilst maintaining the expected quality.

5- In terms of results and meeting users' needs, the developments implemented in 2018 are significant, with, for example, the conclusion of the process of alignment concerning quarterly employment estimates or the definition of the dashboard of French sustainable development indicators. Beyond the UN dimension, the introduction of this process will enable the demand from the public for diverse, themed statistical information to be met more adequately.

6- From this point of view, the mobilisation of administrative sources is crucial, in particular statistical series produced outside of the SSP, which are approved and "labelled" by the Official Statistics Authority (ASP).

In this area, the most marked achievement is the quality labelling, now nationwide, of the "Notaries/INSEE" indices of existing housing stock prices. In addition, the quality labelling of the data of the national family benefits organisation, the CNAF, was renewed and the monthly series on the reimbursement of spending on medicines was quality-labelled. This expands the scope of the quality-labelled data collated by the national health insurance scheme, although there is still plenty of room for better coverage of this area and to improve the relevance of the series produced to inform the public.

7- Finally, the Authority considers that the improvements concerning local statistics do not yet make it possible to satisfactorily cover the objective requirements in this field, which are legitimately high. Indeed, local authorities are important players in terms of public investment and taxation, but also more generally for the production of public services. If official statistics are to fully accomplish their mission of making quality information available to anyone and everyone for the purposes of decision-making, research and public debate, the statistics concerning this information must be of a comparable level to what is produced by the other economic agents. Admittedly, the dissatisfactions expressed are not limited to strictly statistical information. And yet, as well as serving to describe economic or social changes in general, statistics are a key component in informing the public debate. In view of what is at stake, the Authority will carry out a review of this subject in a year's time, which will cover both the requests specifically made to the ministerial statistical office by local authorities and the implementation of the guidelines of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) in this area.

The Authority's opinion² on compliance by the official statistical service with the European Statistics Code of Practice

The Official Statistics Authority observes with satisfaction the progress made and the actions undertaken by the statistics service to consolidate the institutional environment, integrate quality into the statistical work and improve the service provided to users. Nevertheless, it makes the particular comments below regarding some of the principles of the Code.

Principle 1: Professional independence

In 2018, the Authority did not observe any embargo breaches of government origin, which it applauds.

The ASP also notes that INSEE has endeavoured to systematically answer the critical or controversial questions raised in 2018 concerning certain statistical results, in accordance with Indicator 1.7 of the European Code, which states: "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."

Against a backdrop of slowing growth in purchasing power, the public debate is focusing on this subject, especially the issues of its measurement and evolution.

Questions were thus raised at the end of 2017 when the *Conjoncture in France* publication came out about the impact on the evolution of household purchasing power of different so-called "compulsory levy" measures (i.e. taxes and social contributions). INSEE reacted: very quickly, first of all, to clarify the nature of the different types of work it carries out, which effectively must distinguish between statistics and studies, by issuing a press release explaining that the analyses presented in the INSEE's *Conjoncture in France* document concern only household purchasing power and not the changes to compulsory levies; then by producing a Focus article published in the March 2018 *Conjoncture* on the method of calculation and the interpretation of the effects on purchasing power of certain tax measures included in finance bills and the Social Security financing bill and on the way they differ from the effects on tax revenue.

Moreover, a controversy arose in 2018 concerning the calculation of the consumer price index, following the publication of a book criticising the way inflation is measured.

In the book, the author disputes, on the one hand, the way quality effects (the fact that technological progress alters the characteristics of an item and therefore its price) are taken into account, and on the other, the failure to take into account home buying in the index. He was therefore accusing INSEE of understating the inflation rate.

Observing that this criticism was not backed by any serious arguments and that, in addition, the book contained numerous errors, the Director General of INSEE wrote to the author. In his letter he regretted the lack of prior exchanges between the author and INSEE managers in charge of the measurement of prices and stressed in particular that INSEE, like all the other national statistical institutes, complies with the international rules on the calculation of the price index, which allow comparability indices between countries. Concerning the quality effects, the Director of INSEE pointed out that it was difficult to defend the idea that the measurement of volumes did not depend on the quality and performances of the goods produced.

The Authority, which did not intervene in this controversy, endorses the position expressed by INSEE.

It should be noted that at the end of January 2019, a press kit detailing how purchasing power is calculated was posted on the INSEE website, to explain the difference between individual perception of purchasing power and its statistical measurement.

² This opinion summarises in particular the information presented in Part 2, relating to the official statistical service's compliance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Principle 2: Adequacy of resources

With regard to the budget, the Authority notes that the reduction in workforce required of INSEE is demanding and requires productivity gains, but that it should not prevent it from carrying out its tasks, and in some cases, developing them.

It welcomes the fact that beyond 2019, INSEE has been able, in line with the "Public Action 2022" recommendations, to reach a multi-year contractualisation agreement with the Budget Directorate and the Secretariat General of the economic and finance ministries. INSEE will therefore have better visibility over the evolution of its resources, consistent with the timeframes involved in scheduling its work, which the Authority indicated was desirable in its previous opinion on official statistical outputs.³

Nevertheless, the Authority observes that the scheduling of household surveys has been very constrained since the introduction in 2013 of the new framework of employment of INSEE's investigators and their inclusion in the cap placed on jobs at the Institute, all the more so as demand for official statistics remains high, and access to big data cannot meet all those demands, in particular on sensitive subjects (unfit or insecure housing, illiteracy, certain types of violence, for example). In fact, apart from recurrent or contractually scheduled surveys, the Institute is only able to conduct one extra survey per year.

The Authority regrets that these constrained resources mean that surveys that are the subject of numerous and pressing requests are delayed. This is the case for example of the "Homelessness" survey, which was last conducted in 2012, or the Housing survey (last conducted in 2013) which has been affected by uncertainty around its financing and its implementation and which is finally due to be launched in autumn 2019 by the statistical service of the Ministry of Ecological Transition, with the results expected in 2021.

The Authority encourages the SSP to pursue its efforts to seek the most effective use of its resources, taking advantage wherever possible of existing and future productivity gains, the use of the Internet in particular for household surveys, the development of methodological innovations, and the exploitation of scanner data from the main retail chains, subject to maintaining the quality of the results. The Authority observes, however, that certain ministerial statistical offices are subject to strong pressures in terms of workforce in 2019 or report that they no longer have sufficient resources to carry out their surveys, in particular in the areas of healthcare and social security, where the objectivity of official statistics is indispensable.

Principle 6: Impartiality and objectivity

The Authority recommends to the MSOs that have not yet made their embargo rules public that they post them on their websites by the end of the first half of 2019 at the latest.

Principle 15: Accessibility and clarity

The Authority is pleased to note the continued efforts of the SSP to improve access to statistical data and their accessibility to users, in particular on websites.

However, in view of the growing influence of social media and the speed at which false information liable to discredit official statistics can spread, the Authority encourages the SSP to develop a more proactive communication strategy to help citizens to distinguish between reliable statistics and false information with the aim of guaranteeing public trust. More generally, the implementation of a more proactive communication strategy is one way of reaching new target groups and improving statistical

³ See the authority's Annual Report for 2017.

literacy. It is therefore necessary to pay the greatest attention to the ESGAB's recommendation⁴ to *"step up [their] efforts to improve the statistical literacy of European citizens and to educate professional users (especially the media) in the correct use of statistics. Moreover, to increase trust in official statistics, Eurostat and the NSIs should devote more effort to publicly reporting the misuse of official statistics disseminated by them."*

4 For more detail, see Chapter 2.3 on the ESGAB's recommendations.

1. Official statistics in France in 2018

1.1 Overview

The role of the official statistical service (SSP) is to provide everyone with quality information, prepared entirely independently, on the economy and society. For this, the statistics must meet users' needs in terms of the scope covered but also relevance, accuracy, reliability, coherency and comparability. The ways the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics are organised are decisive factors in this respect. In addition, the SSP has to anticipate changes in needs and the conditions of statistical output, especially in view of digital technology.

Progress in statistical output and publications

Without aiming to be exhaustive, the progress made by the SSP in 2018 concerned:

- the extension of the sectoral and geographical scope of the quarterly employment estimates. This constitutes the culmination of the "co-production" process conducted by a partnership between INSEE (for the public scope), the Central Agency for Social Security Organisations (ACOSS) (for the private scope) and the Directorate for the Coordination of Research, Studies and Statistics (DARES) (for temporary employment);

- the defining and posting online on insee.fr of the dashboard recommended by the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) of 98 indicators for monitoring the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in France;

- the publication of the national accounts in the new 2014 base, which makes some important improvements to the description of transactions with the rest of the world and property income flows;

- the publication, now on an annual basis, of the report on the state of statistics in the overseas departments and territorial authorities (DOM/COMs);

- the extension of the national pupil identification number (INE) to higher education, which will enable students to be tracked throughout their education wherever they are in schooling, and thereby to get a better picture of the path they follow.

Digital technology and new data sources

Firstly, the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on 25 May 2018 and the French Personal Data Protection Act, amending the 1978 Act to bring it into line with the GDPR, was enacted on 20 June 2018. The application of this European Data Protection Regulation constitutes a sea change, from a regime based on prior formalities with the data protection agency, the CNIL, to one based on accountability of the parties involved and ex post checks on processing. In addition, the adaptations of the Law for a Digital Republic are continuing to be implemented and several advances occurred in 2018 in the field of open data: the posting online on insee.fr of a catalogue of INSEE's application programming interfaces (APIs); the entry into force of the new procedure for accessing production and research files (FPRs); and the opening of new source codes for INSEE models.

At the same time, the official statistical service is also seeking to systematically integrate the different digital challenges. For example, the conference on the Digital Economy organised in March 2018 by the CNIS provided an opportunity to take stock of the situation regarding changes in the way the markets operate, induced by the digitisation of the economy and their impact on the usual macro-economic concepts and their measurement, on statistics on enterprises and the markets in the digital age and on the impact of digital technology on labour market statistics. And the meeting held in July 2018 on the issues around new data sources was devoted to the impacts that these new sources, including Big Data, could have on statistical output.

1.2 The main progress made by the official statistical service (SSP)

- *The culmination of the process of "co-production" of the quarterly employment estimates*

In June 2018, INSEE issued localised quarterly employment estimates (QEEs) for the first time, covering all payroll employment from the last quarter of 2010 to the first quarter of 2018, for the scope "whole of France excluding Mayotte". Compared to the previous situation, public sector workers have been added in, as well as agricultural workers and all private employers. In addition, separate statistics are available at regional level for "private" and "public" employment based on the legal category of employers. QEEs are also available for each overseas department (DOM) except Mayotte, for the same same sectoral levels as the Departments in Metropolitan France.

As a reminder, national quarterly employment estimates for the scope "all employees" have been issued since the first quarter of 2017. These estimates are produced by a partnership between INSEE (for the public scope), the Central Agency for Social Security Organisations (ACOSS) (for the private scope) and the Directorate for the Coordination of Research, Studies and Statistics (DARES) (for temporary employment).

- *The creation by the official statistical service of a dashboard of 98 indicators to monitor the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in France*

At its March 2017 session, the United Nations Statistical Commission validated a list of 232 indicators which form the reference framework for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs at international level. This list is due to be revised in 2020. The UN also encourages countries to draw up their own sets of indicators based on the Global Indicator Framework for monitoring the SDGs. France therefore decided to draw up a set of major indicators adapted to its national priorities and specificities, to enable the French policies aimed at achieving the SDGs to be monitored on the basis of statistical data.

A working group was set up in 2017 within the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) to tackle this task. With over 100 participants, this working group included people with very different backgrounds (civil society, stakeholders, ministerial departments, statistical offices).

Its work led to the proposal in 2018 of a dashboard of 98 indicators, some of them UN indicators considered relevant to French strategies whose sustainability until 2030 seems guaranteed and the methodology robust and public. The indicators selected include, in particular, all the new wealth indicators.⁵ This dashboard can be found on the INSEE website.

Furthermore, the government decided to start work on a national roadmap for the SDGs, whose preparation is being coordinated by the interministerial delegate for sustainable development,⁶ under the aegis of the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE). This roadmap, considered as strategic, will be drawn up by September 2019 in time for the UN General Assembly at which the French President will present France's commitments as part of the 2030 Agenda. The list of 98 indicators will then be adjusted, if necessary, when the roadmap is finalised to ensure that the dashboard is consistent with the national priorities defined in it. As the national dashboard is complementary to the global monitoring of the SDGs, France will also continue to participate in international reporting based on the 232 global indicators with the UN agencies.

5 As every year since 2015, the government published an annual report on the new wealth indicators based on 10 reference indicators, comprehensive statistics and the most recent data on the economic, social and environmental situation of France. These indicators are also used for the Annual Report on the State of France (RAEF) of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council.

6 It is the Sustainable Development Commissioner that occupies this position.

- ***Publication of the national accounts in the new 2014 base***

In May 2018, INSEE published the national accounts in the new 2014 base, for the period from 1949 to 2017. The revisions mainly concern the description of export and import flows of good and services and income flows with the rest of the world. Another important focus has been to make the description of property income more reliable (interest and dividends in particular). With the aim of harmonising national accounting methods, INSEE has also to come into line in the 2014 base with the practice in other European countries of including drug trafficking in GDP. In practice, the estimate of GDP has only been revised very slightly, in terms of both level and trend.

The change to the 2014 base is specific to France. It is the fruit of a coordinated initiative with the Banque de France.

Furthermore, after exchanging with Eurostat, in September 2018 INSEE published revisions of the general government deficit and debt for 2016 and 2017. These revisions concern the updating of sources and the implementation of two methodological modifications on the reclassification of SNCF-Réseau and the accounting treatment of the State's recapitalisation of Orano.

- ***The now annual report on the state of statistics in the DOM/COMs***

The much-awaited report on the state of statistics in the overseas departments and regions published for the first time at the beginning of 2017 will now be updated every year. It provides an overview of the numerous outputs of the official statistical service in the DOMs and the COMs and highlights the progress made over the year.

For example, achievements in 2018 include the publication of an annual dashboard on employment and unemployment in all five DROMs⁷ and the collection for the first time of data for a survey of household income and living standards in the four historic DROMs.

- ***Extension of the national pupil identification number (INE)***

In 2018, the work done on the extension of the national pupil identification number concerned apprentices. For the record, since the beginning of the 2017-18 academic year, all pupils in schools dependent on the Ministry of Education have had an individual identification number that will enable them to be tracked throughout their education and thereby to get a better picture of the path they follow.

Since the beginning of the 2018-19 academic year, the INE has also been extended to higher education. In 2019, the work on extending the INE will concern pupils in agricultural schools as well as students. This project is part of the 2019-2023 medium-term opinion issued by the CNIS recommending that young people's pathway through the education system be tracked.

Responsibility for the RNIE (national register of pupil, student and apprentice identification numbers) lies with the ministerial statistical office of the Education Ministry (DEPP), with all the guarantees in terms of confidentiality that this status brings.

⁷ The "overseas departments and regions" or DROMs are the territories covered by Article 73 of the French Constitution, namely: Martinique, Guadeloupe, Guiana, Reunion Island and Mayotte. The four historic DROMs are Martinique, Guadeloupe, Guiana and Reunion Island. The "overseas collectivities" or COMs are the territories covered by Article 74 or Part XIII of the Constitution, namely: French Polynesia, Wallis-et-Futuna, Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Martin and New Caledonia.

1.3 Governance of the official statistical service (SSP)

- *A new decree to reinforce the competencies of the Official Statistics Authority*

Decree no. 2018-800 of 20 September 2018 clarifies the competencies of the Official Statistics Authority (ASP) and the conditions under which it operates in relation to the initial Decree no. 2009-250 of 6 March 2009:

- the new wording of Article 1-1° reinforces the Authority's role with regard to compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice,

- the amendment of Article 1-1°bis draws a clearer line between the dissemination of statistical information and ministerial communication,

- the third amendment is the insertion of an Article 1-3°bis concerning the rules applicable to the appointment of statistical managers who are central government administrators to bring the law into line with EU Regulation 223/2009, amended.

This last amendment specifies that the ASP issues an opinion when the Director General of INSEE and heads of the OSSs, who are central government administrators, are appointed, for the attention of the hearing committee competent for their appointment. This opinion exclusively concerns the professional competence in the field of statistics of the persons being considered for appointment. The opinion (favourable or unfavourable) is published in the Official Journal at the same time as the instrument of appointment.⁸ The Authority's Internal Regulations have been adjusted accordingly.

- *Implementation of the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) within the official statistical service*

The application of this European personal data protection regulation (GDPR) constitutes a sea change, from a regime based on prior formalities with the data protection agency, the CNIL, to one based on accountability of the parties involved and ex post checks on processing. However, the law has maintained the specific provisions necessary to official statistics. Most worthy of mention: waivers relating to the purpose of the processing, information on the implementation of the processing, communication of personal data. Likewise, the official statistical service still has the possibility of processing "sensitive" data.

Furthermore, the law integrates the advances of the Law for a Digital Republic, concerning the possibility for the official statistical service of implementing a simplified individual data matching procedure, known as the encrypted NIR (national registration number) procedure. The encrypted NIR, however, is not yet operational. INSEE therefore launched a project in September to set its organisation and the practicalities of its implementation which are to be specified in an Order.

In addition, several tasks require that the official statistical service should be able to access the NIR to constitute study databases. Accordingly, the law enacted on 20 June included in its provisions a mandate given to the government to issue an Order revising the law, settle the issues of coordination with existing laws and include the extension to the overseas territorial authorities. Within this framework, it has been possible to bring within the scope of the Decree on the use of the NIR processing operations carried out by the official statistical service for statistical purposes. The Order amending the Law was published on 12 December. The Order will come into force after the "tidying up" of the implementing decree of the amended 1978 Act, at the latest by 1 June 2019. A framework decree on the use of the NIR is also in the process of being finalised. It sets out the purposes of and the persons responsible for the processing operations authorised. The conditions of use of the NIR by the official statistical service are now dependent on this draft

⁸ See Annexe 3.

framework decree.

In addition, Data Protection Officers (DPO) have been appointed in all the ministries. They are responsible for all the processing that goes on in their ministries, with the DPO having the role of advising those responsible for processing, as well as ensuring the correct application of the law and acting as the point of contact for the CNIL and the persons concerned. Each of the ministerial statistical offices therefore has a different DPO. For INSEE, it is the head of department in charge of information systems of the Secretariat General of the Ministry of the Economy. De facto, INSEE's legal unit is the correspondent of the Ministry of the Economy DPO: other MSOs are also planning to appoint a correspondent for their ministerial DPO.

The implementation of the new law implies a significant investment on the part of the services in new texts, the appropriation of legal rules or working group recommendations by department teams, and the production of shared guidance documents. It would seem that the first processing operations submitted to the new regime by INSEE are raising questions or difficulties of application, essentially concerning obligations in the event of co-responsibility for processing, obligations in the event of subcontracting, the obligation to inform the people concerned of household surveys by notification letters, and the delimitation of the scope of surveys requiring an impact study, in particular European surveys including questions on health. Discussions will need to be organised with the Ministry of the Economy DPO in 2019 to set up a suitable mode of operation for the statistical processing of personal data.

The review of the implementation of the new law will only be able to be conducted in 2019, after the adoption and enactment of the new laws and feedback from the DPOs on the first cases submitted.

- ***Continued implementation of the Law for a Digital Republic***

The adaptations of the Law for a Digital Republic are continuing to be implemented and several advances occurred in 2018 in the field of open data.

Since 5 July 2018, an online catalogue of INSEE's application programming interfaces (APIs), api.insee.fr, has been available to the public, with two APIs: the Sirene API and the Nomenclature API.

- the Sirene API gives government entities and enterprises the possibility of integrating, with minimal programming, access to all the disclosable information in the Sirene register of enterprises and establishments. The entire history of Sirene since its creation in 1973 can now be queried at any time.
- The Nomenclature (classification) API provides a classification code to the user allowing them to obtain the wording in return. Currently, it gives access to the most recent version of the classification of activities, legal categories and certain geographical levels of the COG (official geographic code).

The new procedure for accessing production and research files (FPR), in the context of the new digital law, has been validated by the committee on statistical confidentiality. These files in fact cannot be disseminated as open data on the insee.fr website as they present a risk of indirect re-identification of the people questioned.

The working files made available, before dissemination, to the teams participating in the operational groups for the validation of survey results are also concerned by this new procedure.

Finally, since the enactment of the Law for a Digital Republic, several requests for the publication of INSEE "sources codes" have been made, in particular by associations. A reflection has been conducted by INSEE to clarify what should be understood by source codes for statistics, as the law does not specify the exact meaning.

Following the conclusions of this reflection, INSEE has decided to publish the "source codes" of four models: Mésange, a macro-economic simulation and general analysis model of the economy, in coordination

with the Treasury, Méléze, a linearised economic model of equilibrium in the eurozone, Destinie II, a dynamic microsimulation model whose main applications concern pensions, and Omphale, a localised demographic forecasting model.

- ***Creation of structures at INSEE to develop innovation***

The Order concerning the set-up of an official statistics laboratory ("SSP Lab") within INSEE was published in April 2018. The task of SSP Lab is to support the SSP in the development of experimental investments in new data sources, innovative statistical methods relating to data sciences and to monitor and disseminate innovative statistical methods.

Within INSEE's new information system department (DSI), which has now officially replaced the IT secretariat general, a new unit has been set up, the Innovation and Innovation Strategy System Unit (UnISSI). Its role is notably to guide and stimulate innovation in the information system and to select solutions according to different criteria (relevance, operability, sustainability, coherence of the IS). It works in close collaboration with SSP Lab, and it is the Lab's counterpart for all matters relating to infrastructure, architecture and IT tools. SSP Lab and UnISSI are both involved in many European projects.⁹

- ***Changes to the organisation of the MSOs***

A new decree to clarify the areas in which the statistical office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (SSP) exercises its powers.

Decree no. 2018-473 of 11 June 2018 amending Decree no. 2008-636 of 30 June 2008 establishing the organisation of the central administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, the Agrifood Industry and Forestry defines the scope of the missions of the Department of Statistics and Forward Studies (SSP), replacing, at the ASP's request, the generic wording "*areas of competence of the Ministry*" with an exhaustive list of the areas of competence concerned. The decree adds fishing and aquaculture to the list.

As the ASP had also requested, the Decree provides that the Secretary General of the Ministry must respect the professional independence of the MSO and integrate the role of statistical coordination exercised by the Director General of INSEE with regard to the MSOs, in accordance with the revised EU Regulation no. 223/2009.

The ASP issued a favourable opinion on this draft decree on 20 February 2018.

The statistical office of the Ministry of Education dedicated to Youth and Sports located at the INJEP (National Institute of Youth and Popular Education) changes name

The MSO wanted to change the titles of the INJEP mission without altering its scope or activities, as these names were those of old structures dating from before the 2015 reorganisation of the INJEP.

The MSO or Méos becomes the "Mission Enquêtes, Données et Études Statistiques" (Statistical Surveys, Data and Studies Mission). In addition, aside from the MSO, the INJEP "Observation and Evaluation" mission has been renamed the "Studies and Research" mission and the "Organisation of the Youth Experimentation Fund" mission becomes the "Experimentation and Evaluation of Public Policies" mission.

The ASP issued a favourable opinion on this draft decree on 13 November 2018.

9 See Chapter 3.4.

1.4 Surveys and publications

- *Surveys and publications on topical issues*

In 2018, in the health field, the Directorate for Research, Analysis, Evaluation and Statistics (DREES) carried out the two first waves of the observation panel survey on the practices and conditions of general medical practice, which was quality-labelled as being in the public interest and of statistical quality for the first time. In the social and medico-social field, several new surveys have also been launched:

- Survey on the beneficiaries of the statutory minimum incomes, 4th wave (field data collection from October 2018 to December 2018);
- Survey on child protection establishments and services (this is the first specific survey of its kind, separate from the ES-DS survey (survey of establishments and services for adults and families with social difficulties); it includes several new additional types of information [unaccompanied minors, disability, date first taken into care, etc.]).

In addition, a new wave of the "Opinion Barometer" survey was conducted with new questions on social insecurity.

In 2018, the DREES published a number of brand new studies in the health field, in particular on:

- Access to complementary health insurance according to living standards
- Access to in-company complementary health insurance
- The reform of "responsible vision contracts"
- Waiting times for appointments with specialist doctors

In the social and medico-social field, brand new studies were published on:

- Senior citizens without jobs or pensions
- Analysing the social needs of municipalities
- The transition to adulthood of children of separated parents
- The resources used by elderly care home residents to fund their care in retirement homes
- Changes in the limitations and restrictions on senior citizens' working since 2008
- The consumption habits of 18-34-year-olds in the overseas territories.

Within the Ministry of Education MSO (DEPP), a new edition of "Key Data on Education in Europe" (which only comes out every 3 years) was published in 2018. This publication is a contribution of the DEPP to the public debate on the education system and to aiding the steering and monitoring of public policy. It provides decision-makers, the entire educational community and anyone who is concerned by educational matters, with a wide variety of international indicators and contextualised analyses, grouped together in a national publication which allows the multiple dimensions at work in educational success to be confronted, for each of the countries in the European Union which are faced with the same challenges, ranging from access to knowledge for all to learning to live together in a diverse society.

Concerning the DARES, the Law of 29 February 2016 introduced an experimental programme of subsidised job creations in 10 French territories aimed at all long-term unemployed people wishing to take part. This programme is based on the idea that it is more beneficial for the public authorities to invest in creating such jobs than in funding income replacement benefits due to the positive externalities over the territory as a whole. The scientific committee proposed to carry out a survey of the programme's beneficiaries as well as the residents of the ten pilot areas. This is also conducted with control groups (as similar as possible to the pilot groups). The aim is to determine the impact of this programme not only on the beneficiaries, but also - as required by the Law of 29 February 2016 - on a certain number of areas such as health or quality of life. The first wave of the Quality of Life survey was conducted in the territories in question in 2018.

The cropping practices survey in large-scale farming in the 2017 campaign was conducted in 2018 by the Agriculture MSO. In 2018 the MSO also published the 2016 economic results for fishing.

In 2018 the Ecological and Solidarity Transition MSO put out the National Observatory for Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles' first report on taxis and PHVs. This is the first review of the situation of this sector, which has been heavily impacted by a large number of regulatory changes in the last few years.

In order to provide better assistance for the management of the energy transition, this MSO completed its traditional Energy Balance expressed in physical units with the equivalent expressed in Euros in 2018. It has published separate balances for each type of energy: physical and monetary balance for coal 2011-2015, physical and monetary balance for natural gas 2011-2016 and physical and monetary balance for petroleum and biofuels 2011-2016.

In 2018 the Ecological Transition MSO also launched the "Mobility of people" survey 2018-201, which is part of the national surveys on the movements of people carried out approximately every ten years. The aim of this survey is to describe mobility practices, and to determine how and why French people move about on a daily basis and travel longer distances.

The Higher Education and Research MSO launched, at the end of 2018, the "STAPS (science and technology of physical activities and sport) Integration" survey with some 6,000 former students who graduated in 2014. The aim, among other things, is to be able to identify the decisive factors affecting the entry into the workforce of these graduates. In 2018 the MSO also collected the data for the survey on continuing education in higher education and exploited its results. In addition, a brochure containing the key figures on higher education and research was produced for the first time in 2018.

In 2018, the MSO of the Directorate General for Local Authorities (DGCL) at the Ministry of the Interior, carried out a study on health and safety at work in the territorial civil service for the first time, based on the data in the social reviews at 31/12/2015. A typology of municipalities based on homogeneous budgetary and financial behaviour (*Diversité des communes : cinq profils budgétaires et financiers* (Diversity of municipalities: five budgetary and financial profiles) - December 2018) was published at the end of 2018.

In 2018 the Defence MSO set up a Gross Salary Index - Index-Based Scale (ITB-GI) for the gendarmerie, prepared and disseminated according to the same methods as used for the military ITB-GI. This index is constructed based on the headcount information from the Census of Government Employees (RAE) produced by the Defence MSO. This is a constant qualification structure salary index; it is intended to track changes in the average gross quarterly salary of personnel. The workforce structure used for the calculation is updated every year. The ITB-GI does not take account of changes in other compensation components, in particular bonuses and contributions.

Also in 2018, the MSO launched a survey on enterprises in the defence industries. The purpose of this survey is to provide statistical information that is currently lacking to describe the activities and economic weight of enterprises operating in the defence industries. The main objective of this new survey is to find out what proportion of these enterprises' turnover is connected to the defence industry. This survey will be repeated every three years.

In 2018, the Immigration and Integration MSO prepared to launch a longitudinal survey on the integration of newly arrived migrants (Elipa 2), which will take place in three waves over 2019, 2020 and 2022. The aim of this survey is to get a clearer picture of the foreigners who have recently arrived or been legalised in France, their backstory and the conditions of their settlement. Another objective is to track the integration pathway of such immigrants and evaluate the recently introduced "Republican integration contract" reception scheme.

In 2018 the Internal Security MSO (SSMSI) exploited a survey outside its original scope, the INED's Virage survey, a part of a study of sexual harassment. Furthermore, the SSMSI's "Living Environment and Security survey report" was overhauled in 2018 to make it easier to read and more consistent with the publications of the same type produced by the SSP. For the first time, the SSMSI presented, in December 2018, alongside the ONDRP, the results of the last Living Environment and Security survey (2018), which the SSMSI has contributed to funding since its creation.

Finally, a first analysis using geolocated data¹⁰ was produced by the SSMSI in November 2018 as part of a working document. The latter examines the link between the feeling of insecurity and crime based on a matching at IRIS (statistical information island) level of the Living Environment and Security survey and geolocated crime data.

At INSEE too, developments linked to societal issues were greatly enhanced in 2018

A new edition, after five years, of the *INSEE References* document on Training and Employment was published in 2018. This publication is the fruit of cooperation between INSEE and the statistical organisations working on the field of training. It contains a set of indicators and analyses of the education system, young people's transition into the world of work, and lifelong training.

The 2018 edition of *L'Économie française* includes a special feature on biases that are liable to affect the measurement of growth, with focuses on volume/price splits, the effects of globalisation and the question of how to measure new free goods and services.

In November INSEE also issued the *INSEE Reference* "France Portrait Social" in which the 2018 Focus was on senior citizens (who numbered 13 million in 2018). This Focus looked at their state of health, their assets, their activities and their pensions. The publication also contained two features analysing in depth the effects of social and tax reforms on household incomes and inequality.

Concerning the population, an *INSEE Première* publication looked at France's 11 million social housing tenants. This study is based on the Demographic File on Dwellings and Individuals (Fideli) and was made possible thanks to its being enriched with the data from the social housing providers' register of rental housing.

The *INSEE Reference* 2018 on "Enterprises in France" offered a first report on an evaluation of the effects of the CICE (competitiveness and employment tax credit) on the prices applied by enterprises. The second report provides a detailed analysis of the French international trade surplus in services, while the third examines the links between self-employment, assets and financial constraints from the point of view of their respective trends over the last 40 years.

¹⁰ Concerning the crimes and offences recorded by law enforcement agencies, the year 2018 saw the introduction, on an experimental basis, of a system of geolocating the addresses where crimes are committed, in conjunction with INSEE. This system allows the production of indicators to monitor crime at IRIS (statistical information island) level (number of incidents, incidence rate) and according to priority neighbourhoods in cities (QPVs). The aim eventually is to produce and disseminate smoothed crime maps for different types of offence (burglary, car theft, theft, grievous bodily harm).

2. The European and international context and compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice

2.1 The European and international context

- *The revised European Statistics Code of Practice has been published*

The European Statistics Code of Practice, first adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) in 2005, has been revised by the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) twice: in 2011 and in 2017; the ESSC approved its latest revision on 16 November 2017.

The revised version of the Code, published in 2018, now contains 16 principles related to the institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical outputs. The main modification concerns the addition of a new principle (1bis) devoted to coordination at the national level, in order to take account of amended regulation 223/2009, and cooperation between national institutes. This need for this latest addition stems in particular from the implementation of data exchange mechanisms at the European level (enterprises, foreign trade, etc.). This new principle also covers cooperation with the Central Banks.

PRINCIPLE 1bis Coordination and cooperation *National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat ensure the coordination of all activities for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics at the level of the national statistical system and the European Statistical System, respectively.*

Statistical authorities actively cooperate within the partnership of the European Statistical System, so as to ensure the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.

Indicator 1bis.1: *The National Statistical Institutes coordinate the statistical activities of all other national authorities that develop, produce and disseminate European statistics. They act in this regard as the sole contact point for Eurostat on statistical matters. Legislation and well-defined and established procedures are in place for implementing the coordination role at both national and European levels.*

Indicator 1bis.2: *National guidelines to ensure quality in the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the national statistical system are produced by the Heads of the National Statistical Institutes, where necessary; their implementation is monitored and reviewed.*

Indicator 1bis.3: *Statistical authorities continuously maintain and develop cooperation at various levels with each other and with the advisory bodies of the European Statistical System, as well as with the members of the European System of Central Banks, academic institutions and other international bodies, as appropriate.*

The wording of other parts of the Code have also been adapted to make its principles more generic and less dependent upon the types of sources used (surveys, administrative data, Big Data). This revision is also an opportunity to incorporate the Quality Declaration approved by the ESSC in September 2016, which reflects its members' commitment to the continuous improvement of quality. This Declaration is intended to convince decision-makers of the quality of "official" statistics in an environment marked by increasing competition.

The next peer review, scheduled for 2021-2022, will be based on the revised European Code.¹¹ It should be noted that compliance with the revised European Code had been largely anticipated by the Official Statistical Service (OSS), especially with regard to statistical coordination, cooperation between institutes, quality-oriented activities in preparation for the peer review and uses of new sources of data (Big Data and private data).¹²

¹¹ See Annexe 8

¹² For further details, Chapter 2.2 of this Report is devoted to the compliance of the Official Statistical Service with the revised Code of Practice, and Chapter 3.4 is entirely devoted to the use of new sources of data.

- ***A European Framework Regulation and a sector-specific Regulation have been adopted, and two other European Framework Regulations are under discussion***

Over the past few years, there has been a recasting and an expansion of European legislation on statistics with the preparation of framework regulations intended to cover the major fields of European statistics, and the updating of existing sector-specific or thematic regulations (e.g. gross national income). These texts often provide recourse to delegated acts,¹³ formally introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon, on which a consensus is not always reached, including at the national level. This difficulty therefore prolongs the adoption process.

The framework regulation for agricultural statistics (IFS - Framework for Integrated Farming Statistics) was adopted in August 2018.

This regulation is intended to make the raw data collection process more flexible in the agricultural sector, particularly by integrating the new requirements stemming from changes to the Common Agricultural Policy. This regulation defines the procedures for the next agricultural census in 2020. To this end, an initial implementing regulation, setting out the implementation procedures, was adopted at the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) meeting in October 2018.

The IESS (Integrated European Social Statistics) Framework Regulation encompasses some of the sector-specific regulations already in force that apply to most of INSEE's household surveys. The negotiations have remained deadlocked since the introduction by the European Parliament of an article requiring National Statistical Institutes to transmit samples of households to the European agencies, for survey purposes. Most countries are strongly opposed to this provision, which imposes an obligation without providing the corresponding resources and requires national institutes to transmit samples to bodies outside the realm of official statistics, over which they have no control. However, it is hoped that a compromise can be found before the renewal of the European Parliament in the spring of 2019.

Concerning the FRIBS framework agreement on business statistics, an agreement was struck within the Council in December 2018. The negotiations are progressing slowly due to the concerns of many countries and their insistence on the need to reduce the number of variables per field on grounds of the cost, but also, and above all, due to fears over the transmission of micro-data. There are doubts as to whether it will be submitted to Parliament before the European elections.

The sector-specific Regulation on gross national income (GNI) was definitively adopted at the end of 2018, after numerous discussions on the scope of the delegated acts, which enable Eurostat to define measures to ensure the reliability, exhaustiveness and comparability of GNI data. GNI is a sensitive issue because its total amount determines the States' contributions to the European Union budget.

2.2 Compliance of the Official Statistical Service with the European Statistics Code of Practice¹⁴

The implementation of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice by the French Official Statistical Service is central to the Authority's mission. The Authority's annual report provides an opportunity to conduct a systematic analysis of compliance with its principles.

¹³ Delegated acts reinforce the roles of the European Parliament and Commission while reducing the influence of the National Statistical Institutes, which nonetheless have a key role to play by supplementing and adapting the provisions of the framework regulations in response to the constantly changing demand for statistics.

¹⁴ This report only mentions the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice that attracted particular attention during 2018.

This analysis, of the year 2018, was conducted on the basis of the European Code as revised at the end of 2017.¹⁵

Principle 1: Professional Independence

The Official Statistics Authority (ASP) was created in 2009 to guarantee compliance with the principle of professional independence in the design, production and dissemination of official statistics, pursuant to Law no. 51-711 of 7 June 1951 and Regulation no. 223/2009.

Decree no. 2018-800 of 20 September 2018, amending Decree no. 2009-250 of 3 March 2009 relating to the Authority, reinforces the Authority's remit to ensure compliance with the principle of professional independence throughout the entire French Official Statistical Service.

In 2018, it should be noted that the Authority did not observe any breaches of the principle of professional independence within the SSP.

However, criticisms were levelled at INSEE, causing controversies reported by the media, which could discredit official statistics among its users. As far as the questions about statistics are concerned, the criticisms made in 2018 focused in particular on the methodology used to measure the impacts of indirect tax rises on purchasing power and related to the publication of the December 2017 edition of *Conjuncture in France*. In addition, different articles also reflected mistrust of official statistics. INSEE responded to these criticisms pursuant to indicator 1.7 of the European Code.

Principle 1bis: Coordination and cooperation

As principle 1bis is new, particular attention was paid to analysing the SSP's compliance with its requirements.

Coordination

The Official Statistical Service (SSP) is defined by French Law no. 51-711 of 7 June 1951 on legal obligation, coordination and confidentiality in the field of statistics, and updated in particular by the Digital Republic Law no. 2016-1321 of 7 October 2016. It consists of the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) and the Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs), which carry out statistical operations in their fields of expertise.

The MSOs are listed in the Appendix to the Decree of 3 March 2009, amended, on the Official Statistics Authority. This list is drawn up and updated by an Order of the Minister in charge of the economy,¹⁶ issued after consultation with the Official Statistics Authority. INSEE has been coordinating work on the production of official statistics by different MSOs for many years. This mission is defined by French and European legal provisions.

Decree no. 46-1432 of 14 June 1946, amended, stipulates that INSEE is responsible for "coordinating the statistical methods, resources and activities of general government and private bodies that are subsidised or controlled by the State, centralising their statistical and economic documentation and unifying statistical classifications and codes". European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009, amended in 2015, on European statistics, reinforces INSEE's role in coordinating the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, especially regarding compliance with quality requirements. The Director General of INSEE is the guarantor of quality throughout the entire Official Statistical Service, and defines "national guidelines [...] to guarantee, within the national statistical service, the quality of all European statistics at the time of their development, production and dissemination". Under the terms of

¹⁵ The addition of the new principle 1bis, on coordination and cooperation, to the revised European Code justifies an analysis of the compliance status of the SSP with the European Code at the end of 2018. For the other principles, however, only those that attracted particular attention during 2018 will be mentioned in this report.

¹⁶ Who delegates its signature to the Director General of INSEE.

Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009, and for European statistics, INSEE is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice within the Official Statistical Service.

The French Official Statistical Service has undertaken to conform to the principles of this Code for national statistics that do not relate to European obligations, as an extension of article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009, amended, and on the basis of the French legislation defining INSEE's coordination role.

The Director General of INSEE chairs the Statistical Programme Committee created in 2013, which brings together all heads of Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs). The coordination activities relate to different issues of a strategic or technical nature, which are of common interest to the entire Official Statistical Service (SSP). These issues may relate to current French or international legislative affairs, or to the details of audit conclusions, such as European Peer Reviews. They may also concern the management of human resources or changes to statistical production or dissemination tools. In addition to the plenary meetings of the Statistical Programme Committee, the general coordination role also consists in organising the network of heads of Ministerial Statistical Offices, who meet several times a year for meetings of a general nature, or for thematic meetings which are attended by fewer heads of MSOs.

Another governance body was defined in 2015 with the establishment of the Strategic Quality Committee, which oversees the implementation of the SSP's Quality strategy. Two heads of MSOs participate in this committee. The activities carried out by these two committees have consolidated the Director General of INSEE's role of statistical coordination with the SSP.

A new charter of rights and duties of the Ministerial Statistical Offices was drawn up in 2017 and formalises the framework within which the French Official Statistical Service operates. It clarifies the references common to all the Ministerial Statistical Offices associated with their affiliation to the Official Statistical Service. In 2017, quality guidelines were defined by INSEE in collaboration with the Ministerial Statistical Offices, which constitute a reference document for the SSP in terms of quality. These guidelines aim to identify the points on which the Director General of INSEE requires information to ensure the quality of the key statistics produced¹⁷ by the MSOs, in line with the spirit of Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009, amended. These quality guidelines have enabled each MSO to draw up its own "Quality Roadmap". These individualised roadmaps clearly set out the quality commitments for each MSO up to the end of 2019.

Lastly, to ensure the consistency of the embargo rules adopted by the MSOs and INSEE, a framework document was drawn up in 2017, in which the embargo rules for the SSP in relation to statistical indicators – mainly short-term and/or European – are set out. As is the case for INSEE, these rules, applying to each of the MSOs, are published on their respective websites.

In addition, INSEE is responsible for organising coordination on international statistical issues, in light of the key issues at stake and the significant interactions with national statistics. The MSOs participate in committees and working groups on European and international statistics in their specific fields of expertise, and by doing so, contribute to their development. They also transmit the statistics mentioned in the regulations for their fields of expertise to the relevant international bodies.

INSEE's role, as defined by the Institute's establishment decree in 1946, also includes coordinating the harmonisation of classifications and concepts. The work carried out by INSEE and the MSOs as part of a network enables all producers of statistics to define and share concepts and classifications in order to compare their statistics at both national and international levels.

The mobility policy for managers within the French Official Statistical Service also exerts a powerful influence on the coordination of the SSP. Indeed, it makes a major contribution by propagating a shared statistical culture throughout the SSP.

¹⁷ Key statistics can be defined as statistics that users expect to be disseminated, for which any production failure is highly detrimental to the producing service, and which require a quality procedure including a risk analysis to be applied to the production process in order to guarantee its quality. They include European statistics.

Cooperation

INSEE's cooperation mission is defined in Article 2 of Decree no. 46-1432 of 14 June 1946, amended: "The National Institute shall liaise with similar bodies existing abroad and is authorised to participate officially in international meetings and conferences on statistics, documentation and economic research within its remit."

Within the framework of its international relations, INSEE cooperates with organisations such as the OECD, the UN, etc., and with National Statistical Institutes. In this capacity, it contributes to the creation and implementation of the European statistical system and provides expertise required for the development and harmonisation of official statistics at the international level. In particular, INSEE is engaged in four collective projects involving other NSIs.

The first project is the "Seasonal Adjustment Center of Excellence", coordinated by INSEE since April 2014, whose role is to provide support and services to assist the European statistical system and the Central Banks with their deseasonalisation activities in general, and more specifically with their use of the JDemetra+ software. More than 20 European countries and four international organisations are participating in this project.

The three other schemes are ESSnet projects:

- ESSnet "Big Data", coordinated by the Dutch National Statistical Institute in partnership with around 20 NSIs including INSEE (associated with DARES and the Agriculture MSO) aims to develop the use of mega-data for official statistics, with the aim of experimenting with and pooling data and Big-Data methods for the production of official statistics based on concrete examples;

- ESSnet "Sharing Common Functionalities", coordinated by INSEE in partnership with 6 European NSIs, aims to jointly develop a catalogue of shared statistical services and implement IT tools to facilitate the reuse of these services within the European Statistical System and beyond;

- ESSnet "Linked Open Data" is a smaller project of an exploratory nature, involving INSEE in association with the Bulgarian, Italian and Irish NSIs. Its mission is to prepare the European Statistical System for the integration of "linked open data" in the dissemination of official statistics, with the ultimate aim of publishing, using and viewing standardised national data that are interconnected at the European level.

SSP Lab – the unit created at INSEE for the development of R&D in statistical production within the French Official Statistical Service (SSP Lab) – is another vector for cooperation. This unit's mission is to create and coordinate internal networks within the SSP, but also to join external academic or international networks in order to benefit from their accumulated knowledge and contributions, while also enabling the pooling of investments. Consequently, it participates in the ESSnet Big Data I and II projects (for further details, see Chapter 3.4 on new sources of data).

INSEE experts also take part in international conferences where they present the Institute's methods and best practices. For example, the 9th conference on Quality in Official Statistics, held in 2018, was attended by nearly 500 members of the international statistics community. This conference provides opportunities to present and discuss developments and progress made in the quality of official statistics. It is an occasion for sharing best practices and a showcase for methodological innovations related to quality.

Principle 3: Adequacy of Resources

With regard to the budget, the 2019 Finance Bill signals a slight easing of the effort required of INSEE in relation to previous years (-67 FTE posts against -82 previously). In addition, INSEE has been selected to experiment with the recommendations of the "Action Publique 2022" programme, starting in 2019, which is designed to promote contractualised, multi-annual public budget management,

Principle 4: Commitment to Quality

Since 2016, Quality procedures have been implemented by the producers of statistics in the SSP with support from the INSEE Quality Unit. These procedures have led to the development and implementation of the Quality Assurance Framework (CAQ) for the French national statistical service:

- a procedure for identifying strengths and weaknesses, producing Quality criteria and defining improvement action plans, has been developed and implemented;
- process reviews are being progressively integrated into the processes.

The CAQ covers all types of statistical processes in the initial draft phase, statistical surveys, the implementation of National Accounts, etc.

At the same time, to cover all fields of statistical output, Quality procedures have been developed for the majority of INSEE's major statistical processes. At the end of 2018, two Quality procedures for INSEE's statistical processes were completed (the single electoral register and Sirene), five are in the process of completion (consumer price index, ESANE, financial links, grid coordinate system, Réfigéo geographical reference standard), and four are in progress (population census, regional action service centres, tourism, National Accounts).

In addition, in 2017 and in early 2018, the Ministerial Statistical Offices signed official undertakings (roadmaps) concerning the mapping of their statistical processes and the implementation of Quality procedures for their own key statistical processes. These procedures are conducted in compliance with the Quality Assurance Framework. Staff have received training on these Quality procedures.

Principle 5: Statistical Quality and Data Protection

The GDPR (European regulation on the protection of personal data) has been in force since 25 May 2018. It has been implemented throughout the entire French Official Statistical Service (see Chapter 1.3).

Principle 6: Impartiality and Objectivity

- *Embargo breaches*

As every year, the Authority examines embargo breaches. In 2018, the Authority did not observe any embargo breaches of government origin.

- *Dissemination of embargo rules, revision of the presentation of dissemination timetables on insee.fr and monitoring of punctuality issues*

The MSO publication calendars have been published online since December 2017. A framework document establishing the SSP's dissemination rules for statistical indicators subject to preferential access limitations has been drawn up and transmitted to all departments (embargo rules). Any adaptations of this framework document to the characteristics of each MSO must be published on the Internet alongside the publication calendars. Seven of the ten MSOs producing indicators that fall within the scope of the MSO dissemination rules have already published the document online.

The presentation of the dissemination timetables on Insee.fr is currently being redesigned. Henceforth, the timetables will present the new list of the MSO's main indicators. The website modifications are scheduled for H1 2019. The four-monthly calendars will now announce the dates and times for the dissemination of the MSO's main indicators, and for the other statistical indicators falling within the scope of the MSO's dissemination rules.

Following the ASP's 2016 recommendation, the MSOs are questioned by INSEE every year to assess the punctuality of the publications they announce in their dissemination calendar. This is to determine the rate of punctuality observed and the reasons for any discrepancies if the statistical offices have remained in charge of the production of the publications and the dissemination of their statistics.

The analysis of operations in 2018 concluded that none of the dissemination delays reported by the MSOs had revealed problems concerning the independence of services. Most of the reasons mentioned related to technical delays, problems concerning data (delayed availability of data at the start of processes or processing errors), media competition or insufficient human resources.

Principle 7: Sound Methodology

In 2018, reflections concerning the multi-modal collection of information in household surveys continued at INSEE, with particular emphasis on ways to improve the design and development of multi-modal household surveys by aiming for greater industrialisation of these surveys.

Multimodal collection is intended to improve the response rates to household surveys, develop innovative ways to satisfy social demand and give the SSP the means to optimise the delivery of its household survey programme. Multimodal collection, incorporating repeat interviews by Internet, will be implemented, in particular for the new continuous employment survey starting in 2020.

In order to extend and pool multimodal tools, a new process (Metallica) is currently being developed. It is based on the experience gained from the modernisation of business surveys and features a household portal and new tools for the design and production of collection media based on metadata.

At INSEE, household surveys remain largely based on face-to-face interviews requiring an investigator and the interviewee to be simultaneously present. The samples are therefore organised on the basis of randomly selected collection zones called “primary units” (with the exception of the employment survey which is subject to specific area sampling procedure), which must be renewed every ten years or so to maintain the representativeness of the samples and the quality of the surveys.

The aim of the Nautile project is to renew these primary units by 2020.

Until now, the majority of household survey samples were derived from the population census, while the employment survey sample was independently obtained from the 2006 housing tax file.

The emergence of a new source – Fidéli (demographic file on households and individuals based on tax data) – has provided new opportunities. From now on, all surveys will be derived from this new source and the Employment survey sample will be coordinated with the survey areas used for the household surveys in order to facilitate the organisation of operations in the field. The new collection areas for the Master Sample and the Employment Survey were obtained in the spring of 2018 after a substantial amount of work on developing them and defining their sampling plan. They were approved by the INSEE Board in June 2018. The progressive rollout of the new employment sample will start in Q3 2019. The other household surveys will be gradually switched over to the new survey areas between 2020 and 2021.

The European requirements governing surveys subject to European regulations (the Continuous Employment Survey and the household Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC), among others) will be likely to change over the coming years with the entry into force of the future IESS regulation (see Chapter 2.1). In particular, this new regulation imposes a requirement on Member States to provide precise data for certain key indicators (unemployment rate, poverty rate, etc.) instead of a minimum number of respondents. A review of surveys subject to European regulations has been conducted to anticipate the sample sizes required to comply with these future requirements, and to adapt the sampling plans for the surveys accordingly. In particular, these activities have confirmed that reducing the term of the SILC panel to 4 years (from the 9

years at present), while increasing the size of the incoming sample on an annual basis, would satisfy the future European requirements for precise data on poverty measurement.

The implementation of a georeferenced information system at INSEE will be facilitated by the launch of the Gaia project in September 2018. This georeferencing system based on location-related data replaces the Common Address Reference Base (*Référentiel Commun d'Adresses* - RCA). This project sets out to provide tools to enable the implementation of a georeferenced statistical information system in a systematic and long-term manner. It proposes to use all available location-related data, i.e. addresses combined with the land register, the characteristics of statistical units of interest whose location may be known, and any identifiers of such units.

This project, of a highly cross-functional nature within INSEE and more generally throughout the SSP, will be carried out in close collaboration with the French National Geographic Institute (IGN). An experiment carried out as part of the INSEE 2025 Strategic Plan demonstrated that it was indeed possible to geolocate the dwellings surveyed in small municipalities without using addresses by using a method known as “probabilistic matching” based on the land registry.

In addition, a spatial analysis handbook developed by INSEE with European funding, was disseminated in 2018, including via the INSEE and Eurostat websites. It presents all of the statistical methods that can be employed (theory and practical implementation using the “R” software) by a statistical institute with a precisely georeferenced information system. The topics cover issues ranging from performing a descriptive analysis of georeferenced data and measuring the importance of spatial effects and their integration into econometrics, for example, to managing the confidentiality of spatial data.

Furthermore, following the 2014 Peer Review's recommendations on the initiative of Eurostat, the Institute undertook to publish exhaustive methodological documentation in a dedicated section of the INSEE website (associated tools and methods: sampling, secrecy, seasonal correction methods, quality assurance framework, quality report templates, etc.), at the end of 2017. This led to the publication of exhaustive methodological documentation in a dedicated section of the INSEE website. In 2017, this section was launched with the publication of ten methodology sheets. An additional sheet was added in 2018.

Principle 8: Appropriate Statistical Procedures

INSEE is developing a general revision policy which should be available during the course of H1 2019. It will be simultaneously published on the Internet and in reports on the quality of statistical sources, via a new functionality providing access to metadata, which will be added to Insee.fr. It should be noted that since July 2018, ***the “Statistical sources and indicators” section of the Insee.fr website has contained descriptions of statistical operations conforming to the European SIMS standard.***

This revision policy will enable compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice (indicators 8.5, 6.6 and 12.3), the publication of responses to the recommendations of the 2014 Peer Review, and the organisation of the production and dissemination of statistics, while ensuring that Quality reports will be completed in a consistent manner.

Principle 9: Non-excessive Burden on Respondents

In the health sector, in 2018, the DREES launched measures to automate the inputting of coverage included in top-up health insurance policies (development of a tool based on the extraction of policies in PDF format), which ultimately aims to ease the collection burden for the survey of the most widely purchased policies offered by top-up health insurance providers.

The matching of health surveys (EHIS, ENP, etc.) with the National Health Data System is becoming more

widespread. In the context of the EHIS 2019 survey, this will make it possible to ask Eurostat to reduce the section on pathologies for the next surveys. For the National Perinatal Survey, it will eliminate the need for complex questions on healthcare consumption during pregnancy.

In 2018, several variables were removed from the SAE (annual statistics on healthcare establishments) and methodological activities designed to streamline the survey are continuing. Efforts have been made to identify variables associated with poor-quality responses which indicate the need to adapt or remove them. Lastly, reflection on the use of the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN) has begun, with a view to developing a method for the DSN (staff remunerated by healthcare establishments) to pre-complete the questionnaire by 2023.

The assessment of administrative data on social and medico-social establishments is also continuing with the eventual aim of pre-completing and streamlining the four-yearly DREES surveys of these organisations.

A tool has been incorporated into the online collection software for the ES disability survey (field survey in 2019), to enable the respondent institutions to extract information directly from it, which can then be entered into the ANAP (National Performance Support Agency) performance dashboard.

In the field of social and medico-social data, the DREES has continued its policy, launched in 2017, of mapping all the surveys and information systems used by the Ministry and its operators (CNSA, ANAP, etc.) and creating a network of "data contact people" in all the directorates, including those in which statistics are not the core activity. The purpose of this action is, firstly, to better articulate the different systems for acquiring data from local authorities and social and medico-social establishments and services, in order to reduce the reporting burden by reducing redundancy through exchanges of data upstream, and by better planning of collection timetables, and secondly, to identify all the administrative files available, with a view, in a second phase, to assessing their quality and envisaging how they can be used in the statistical observation system.

The DEPP and the DARES have embarked on a project to obtain more detailed information about the employment integration rates of apprentices and vocational college-leavers, in order to improve the service rendered to families and ease the workload for institutions, but also to simplify the process and ease the burden on respondents. This project, financed by the Public Action Transformation Plan (*Plan de transformation de l'action publique*), is intended to replace the current IVA (labour-market integration of high school and college-leavers after completing vocational training) and IPA (professional integration of apprentices) schemes managed by the Education Ministry (DEPP). The project entails the automatic matching of administrative data, derived primarily from the information systems attached to the ministries in charge of employment (DARES) and State education (DEPP).

Within the MSO for higher education and research, the survey of project developers implemented during the 2018 Science Festival was carried out according to the projects described in the Ministry for Higher Education's open agenda, which enabled the retrieval of the descriptive components of these projects and eliminated the need to interview the project developers in greater detail.

Concerning the Agriculture MSO, in order to ease the collection burden on the respondents, two rotating samples were implemented in 2018 – one for the Sheep Herd survey and the other for the Arable Land survey. Concerning poultry, the quarterly survey on poultry cutting was stopped and the monthly poultry slaughter survey has been streamlined by eliminating the cutting variables. Indeed, an assessment revealed that information about cutting operations is not required on a monthly basis for short-term analysis needs and can be obtained on an annual basis from the Prodcom survey of meat and processed poultry products.

A new sample was established for the annual Quality survey of poultry abattoirs, especially to avoid the possibility of the SSP and the DDCSPP (Directorates for Social Cohesion and Civil Protection) asking low-capacity abattoirs the same questions.

The Internal Security (SSMSI) MSO is now associated with the Justice MSO in the Programme to Computerise Criminal Proceedings (PPN), which was jointly launched by the two ministries concerned in 2018, in order to prepare data for monitoring the security-justice continuum.

Principle 10: Cost Effectiveness

Online collections are being extensively rolled out throughout the SSP

The online response rate to the annual census survey in 2018 rose by two points compared to 2016, corresponding to 48% of households. There is still significant room for improvement as only 35% of municipalities recorded online response rates exceeding 55%.

An initial collection experiment without census officials visiting respondents was successfully conducted in 2018: in 5 days, between 30% and 50% of the people concerned spontaneously completed the census online. This experiment will be extended in 2019.

More generally, a change in the data collection information system based on the generation of collection media from metadata will enable INSEE to develop the use of Internet and multimodal methods for the collection of household surveys in a consistent and standardised manner, thereby improving efficiency.

The computerisation of the collection of information from enterprises continues to gain momentum. It is being progressively unified by switching the different surveys over to a single collection platform (Coltrane). In 2018, twenty surveys were incorporated into this collection platform which is gradually replacing the different existing systems – 9 more than in 2017.

At the DARES, the establishments surveyed in 2018, in the framework of the ACEMO surveys on social dialogue in enterprises and on very small enterprises, were able to complete these surveys via the “Coltrane” single collection platform.

At the DREES, the observation panel for practices and conditions of practice in general medicine was approved and then collected by multimodal means (online collection in addition to telephone surveys), based on more precise sampling to enable more targeted analyses (doctors practising in sub-dense areas, in multidisciplinary medical centres, etc.)

A certain number of surveys in the social field were collected online:

- Components covering beneficiaries of assistance for elderly people and disabled people in the Social Care survey
- Annual survey on pension savings and additional pensions (of managing bodies);

The Civil Service MSO has introduced the online publication of the DGFIP survey of State institutions, excluding pay, concerning the implementation of the day without paid benefit.

The DEPP has computerised all of its surveys. All evaluations of samples of pupils are now carried out on a tablet device or computer. The evaluation of sciences was computerised in 2018. Whenever the switch to computerisation is made, the DEPP performs bridge studies to estimate the effect of the change from a paper-based evaluation to a computerised evaluation.

In 2018, the DEPP implemented exhaustive evaluations of pupils’ competencies at the start of *Cours Primaire* (age 6-7), after introducing an exhaustive evaluation of pupils’ competencies at the start of *Sixième* (age 11-12) in 2017. These exhaustive evaluations are computerised in secondary education. At primary level, the teachers enter the examination results into ledgers. In 2018, the DEPP tested the transition to tablet devices for these evaluations.

In H2 2019, the Defence MSO will launching an annual online survey of visits to memorial sites. This annual online survey will be repeated over a three-year period, with a view to collecting visitor numbers to memorial sites in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The use of new administrative sources is increasing

In the health sector, the DREES is continuing to exploit the SNDS, which is being ramped up in order to calculate distances travelled to maternity units, for example, with a view to analysing impacts on the quality of care. In the social field, it is continuing to develop statistical infrastructures based on the matching of administrative sources. It has launched projects for ÉNÉAS panels (intended for monitoring the autonomy and accommodation pathways of elderly people) and ETAPS (cross-disciplinary panels for studying issues affecting several social protection fields at the same time).

In the medico-social field:

- Individual transmissions of data from Departmental Councils on Personalised Autonomy Benefit (APA) and Social Housing Support (ASH), concerning beneficiaries and applicants in 2017 (this becomes a legal obligation for the first time with the aim of providing exhaustive coverage of French departments)
- Individual transmissions of data from Departmental Councils on the Disability Compensation Allowance (PCH), concerning beneficiaries from 2012 to 2016 (collection in 2017 but with a data reprocessing phase in 2018)
- Assessment of data in the CNSA's "Prices of Medico-Social Establishments and Services" database (prices of accommodation in nursing homes for dependent elderly people). This assessment forms part of a more general approach to the assessment of administrative data for social and medico-social establishments, in order to create an "annual statistical file" summarising all these data for statistical exploitation and research purposes.

At the DARES, the TRAJAM project (trajectory of young people matched to active measurements of the employment market) consists in creating a permanent statistical database for monitoring the professional pathways of young people and their participation in active measures on the labour market. This database is created by matching the DADS panel (which monitors the employment episodes of one-twelfth of individuals) with the statistical databases used to monitor support measures, training and subsidised employment contracts. It was finalised in 2018. The construction of this database will satisfy the European Commission's demands on monitoring the "European Youth Guarantee". More broadly speaking, it will enable the analysis of the training pathways and subsidised employment contracts of young people.

The Justice MSO exploits the APPI source (on the enforcement of sentences, probation and integration), which covers the enforcement of prison sentences, in the context of the handover of prison service statistics to this MSO.

The Defence MSO uses data from the Ministry for the Armed Forces' Human Resource Data Bank (BDRH) to improve the quality of the statistics produced, particularly for the HR component for military personnel, in the framework of the Annual Census of Government Employees (RAE), which informs INSEE's SIASP (Public Service Employees Information System) scheme. This is working towards the eventual creation of a single source for the production of statistics on the remuneration and population characteristics of military personnel, which will be more compatible with what is published in the Ministry's annual social review.

In the Higher Education and Research sector, the "Parcoursup" portal replaced the APB system in 2018. The data contained in APB and its successor Parcoursup are unique insofar as they describe the choices and individual preferences of the vast majority of new students for the university year to come, in addition to the offerings of higher education institutions and the proposals they submit to these applicants.

The first objective of the APB'Stats project by the SIES was the quality upgrading of hundreds of APB management databases in order to develop APB databases for statistical, analytical and research purposes. In 2018, the SIES produced different anonymised databases, in compliance with the principles and regulations for official statistics and the CRPA, to enable the dissemination of APB'Stat data, followed by Parcoursup data at the appropriate time, in Open Data format.

The second aim is to carry out matching with the other statistical sources concerning the studies followed, the diplomas obtained (SISE, Panel) and integration. The implementation, in 2017-2018, of the “national register for identifiers of pupils, students and apprentices” concerning the allocation of a single national number, and the rollout, in 2019, of the INES (National Identifier in Higher Education – see below) service should eventually guarantee high quality matches between the numerous sources produced by the SIES.

In addition, the scope of the annual survey of local authority budgets, which had previously focused on research and technology transfer, was extended to the topics of higher education and student life in 2017. The exploitation of the results obtained from these two components of the survey of local authorities, and their dissemination – both to the research community and the higher education sector – took place in 2018.

In 2018, the Internal Security MSO (SSMSI) continued its detailed exploitation of files on crime recorded by the security forces (police and gendarmerie), and improvements to their quality, in the fields of sexual violence, destruction and damage to property, fraud and related offences, with a view to extending the scope of the published short-term indicators at the start of 2019.

For the DGFIP MSO, the introduction of taxation at source in January 2019 led to several new opportunities to exploit administrative files for statistical production. Since September 2018, the MSO has been using the SACRE-SRE file, which contains data declared by third-party collectors (net remuneration paid by the third-party collector to the natural person, rate applied on the month of payment, professional identifier of the natural person, etc.).

It also uses information contained in the “R-taux” reference standard. The data contained in this standard includes all data related to the income tax rate (personalised rate, individualised rate, neutral rate).

At INSEE, the planned abolition of the housing tax has prompted the Institute to start looking for alternative solutions, in view of its key role in many outputs. Most of the envisaged solutions continue to focus on the use of databases of fiscal origin: increased use of the income tax file – particularly the part describing the tax household – and new use of the 2044 and special 2044 forms on income from land.

INSEE’s General Inspectorate is defining its scope and consolidating its methodology

In 2018, the General Inspectorate defined the content of its activities in cross-cutting reports (risk-management report in January, report on positioning vis-à-vis other General Inspectorates in July) and the relaunch of *Le courrier des statistiques*, a magazine addressing all of the key issues facing the Official Statistical Services, which is now published in digital format on a six-monthly basis.

The methodology has been enhanced with a reference document defining the operating parameters in the specific case of efficiency audits. In the Order of 4 July 2018 on the internal organisation of INSEE, the General Inspectorate’s missions were also defined, including its missions of a forward-looking nature, its conventional inspection missions and missions carried out with other inspectorates.

Diverse missions were carried out: auditing, consulting, forecasting, and joint missions with other inspectorates. The reports produced include:

- the results of a consulting mission on the statistical production process of the Customs MSO, conducted jointly with the Customs Service Inspectorate
- an internal audit on estimating the costs of major operations at INSEE
- a report on the quality of household surveys in Île-de-France
- a report focusing on the governance and organisation of the national activities carried out in French regions
- a report on the provision and archiving of data at INSEE
- a report analysing the impacts of the decision to abolish the housing tax on official statistics
- lastly, a forward-looking analysis of the global strategy of forging links with influential players, relating to INSEE’s positioning vis-à-vis social networks.

Principle 11: Relevance

Two mechanisms ensure the relevance of French official statistics:

- the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) organises the dialogue between users and producers of official statistics.
- a permanent satisfaction or opinion survey scheme monitors user satisfaction retroactively.

The CNIS

The CNIS' activities conform to the principle of relevance, in keeping with its responsibility for consultation between the users and producers of official statistics. It highlights the new needs, in a forward-looking approach. It contributes to the preparation of an annual programme of work and statistical surveys in line with the needs of the players involved to understand society in the social and economic fields. 2018 was an important year for the CNIS, marked by the preparation of the medium-term activities for the 2019-2023 period, which will determine its activities for the next five years.¹⁸

Satisfaction surveys

Satisfaction surveys are intended to assess the quality of the information provided by INSEE in relation to the public's expectations regarding the relevance of information, ease of access, choice of media, etc. These surveys focus on precise topics. They provide results that are compared with other information gathered elsewhere and can be used to formulate a corrective action plan.

In 2018, INSEE carried out or completed six satisfaction surveys on specific topics or on its public image and on the credibility of the data it produces.

- One year after the new website went live (November 2016), users' opinions were gathered via a specific satisfaction survey at the end of 2017. The respondents are generally satisfied with the website and give it an average score of 7.1/10. They are more satisfied with the vocabulary used and the documentation than with the browsing experience, content, user-friendliness or design of the website. 29% of the website's users consider the search engine to be inadequate and 28% do not think the results obtained are relevant. "Statistics" is the most widely consulted section; half of respondents mentioned difficulties in finding their way around the different materials (data, publications, etc.).

- In addition to the survey on the Insee.fr website, users who download data files (detailed files, databases, key figures or INSEE Results) were asked about their preferred formats. When it is proposed as a downloadable format on the website, Excel is ranked as the respondent's first choice, ahead of CSV format. Excel is chosen for consulting and conserving data, or for aggregating them and performing simple operations on files, whereas CSV format is preferred for reprocessing databases.

- A new survey of the "day's visits" to the insee.fr website consolidated the results of the surveys conducted in 2017 and covered user profiles, their satisfaction rates and their subjects of interest. 86% of respondents find what they are looking for, either partially (33%) or completely (53%). They primarily search for data, publications or an index. These users use search engines – either external engines or the site's own – to find the information that interests them.

- The opinions of users interested in intermunicipal mapping were collected to produce a new version of "gridded" data. These users are satisfied with the relevance of the concepts and the documentation on the current resource but are less happy with its ease of use and the variety of the indicators. They would like to be able to use the grids for several dimensions and have access to an integrated tool for importing their own mapping resources or plotting personalised zones.

¹⁸ See Annexe 7 for a detailed review of the CNIS' activities in 2018

Finally, as for every year since 2009, two surveys on INSEE's image were carried out: as perceived by the general public and by visitors to the insee.fr website.

- In 2018, the Image survey of the general public was a comprehensive survey: the Institute's ten image attributes were tested, along with the eight economic indicators. Conducted in October, it concerned knowledge and opinions of INSEE, its image, the credibility of eight indicators (unemployment rate, growth rate, consumer price index/inflation, birth rate, rent reference index, population census data, purchasing power and government debt), and trust in the published figures.

Awareness of the Institute dropped by two points in 2018 but remains high: 81% of people interviewed said they were familiar with INSEE and 65% "knew what it does". The proportion of French people with a good opinion of the Institute fell by three points, with a corresponding two-point rise in people expressing "no opinion". The credibility of the indicators tested, i.e. the fact that they reflect "what is really happening in France in the field", changed to variable extents in 2018. Trust declined by four to six points for all key indicators, except for the unemployment rate and government debt, which increased, along with purchasing power and the rent reference index, which remained stable. Mistrust of economic statistics grew among the French public: 49% of respondents trust "the published statistics and data on the French economic and social situation", up from 46% in 2017.

- As in previous years, Internet users visiting the insee.fr website have a good or very good opinion of the Institute. Nearly all of them consider it useful (95%) and declare that it inspires confidence (91%), while 85% consider that it accomplishes its mission effectively. The impression of independence from political power is the subject with the lowest approval level (65%), but which also recorded the biggest improvement (up 3 points on 2017) and received the largest number of "don't knows" (21%). As for the indicators, there was no significant change in their credibility in 2018.

Since 2017, the main results of the satisfaction surveys conducted by INSEE have been published on www.insee.fr as soon as they have been approved, at the following address:

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/information/2129030>

Principle 15: Accessibility and Clarity

Changes for modernising the SSP's websites

INSEE proposed new products in 2018, such as the key series, and new services, while adding buttons for sharing web pages on social networks for publications, and new tools, such as the interactive resource on first names, designed for the general public.

Since July 2018, the "Sources" section of the website has been supplied with data by the Statistical Metadata Standard, for standardisation purposes and to ensure greater consistency with international standards.

The Statistical Office of the Ministry for Agriculture has upgraded its online data provision application by incorporating multidimensional cubes. Detailed results are now available in the form of customisable interactive maps and tables.

The ergonomics of the website of the Customs Ministerial Statistical Office have been completely redesigned to facilitate access to data. The historical depth of the available series has also been increased.

Continuation of the SSP's efforts to improve access to statistical data and improve their clarity for users

In line with the thrust of the INSEE Horizon 2025 Strategic Plan, "making the figures speak for themselves and anticipating the needs of all types of public", INSEE has developed its educational offerings by producing interactive publications on statistics that crop up frequently in the public debate ("Key Figures" section). This new product targets the general public. It combines statistics, the latest developments and an educational component. The first two products were published online in December 2018 and cover the topics

of immigration and globalisation. This new offering also enhances the website with new tools (conditional graphics and dynamic thumbnail images), and constitutes the first stage in the development of data visualisation on insee.fr.

The DREES is striving to develop new tools to enhance its statistics and studies by improving their visual presentation. This includes the online provision of visualisation applications, i.e. interactive tools for mapping children's living conditions. An instructional video used to accompany the annual publication on medical demographics (<https://youtu.be/7Qnhn3lqMZU>). Knowledge of the ecosystem of health indicators remains very patchy, and operators require reliable and easily accessible indicators. In response to these needs, the DREES has launched the indicator mapping project, which sets out offer health operators and more generally, researchers and the general public, a single portal listing all health indicators.

Efforts to raise young people's awareness of statistical issues continued in 2018 in the framework of a partnership with the French National Education system, leading to initiatives such as the creation of a European statistics competition in which 400 teams of high-school pupils participated.

The INSEE website is supplied with data from a new system dedicated to statistical metadata

The new Statistical Metadata Standard (RmèS) marks a breakthrough in the provision of metadata. It performs a centralising role but also guarantees the uniformity of representations of overarching metadata (concepts, classifications, etc.) and the consistency of the information provided, thanks to the application of identification rules. The adoption of international standards to describe metadata facilitates their reuse by humans and machines alike and promotes exchanges with other organisations.

This new statistical metadata standard is now in production and supplies data to Insee.fr. Services designed to supply the standard or extract metadata from it will be proposed throughout the life cycle of statistical operations. Interfaces may also be developed to facilitate the reuse of metadata by other applications. Beyond this simple reuse, it will be possible for certain client applications to use metadata in production processes. In this way, an initial version of the questionnaire design tool (named "Pogues"), based on statistical metadata, was made available to survey designers in 2018.

To maintain the consistent quality of the standard and metadata over time, the governance of this standard will be reviewed in 2019. In addition to implementing the usual maintenance structures, there are plans to set up a guidance authority to define common rules for maintaining the quality of metadata and devising a continuous improvement plan, in close collaboration with the producers.

Over 230 data sources made available via the Secure Data Access Centre (CASD)

The Secure Data Access Centre (CASD) of the Group of National Schools of Economics and Statistics is a service that allows researchers to work remotely, in a secure manner, on highly detailed individual data subject to statistical confidentiality. On 29 December 2018, by Ministerial Order, the CASD became a Public Interest Grouping composed of INSEE, the GENES, the CNRS, the École Polytechnique and HEC Paris. This change of legal status will enable the CASD to ensure the continuity of its service, develop services for research, progressively promote its technologies to the private sector and do its utmost to control costs for researchers. To make data available, the CASD regularly enters into agreements with the owners of data to establish the conditions which mainly concern the authorisation procedures, the criteria for restricting the release of results and the precise list of data and documentation that have been made available.

The CASD has been approved in compliance with the Health Data Security Standard, defined in 2017, which enables it to provide data from the National Health Data System (SNDS), which encompasses data from the CNAM (SNIIRAM) and the Information Systems Medicalisation Programme (PMSI), in addition to detailed data concerning all hospital stays in France collected by the Technical Agency for Hospitalisation Information (ATIH), and data on causes of death (INSERM-CepiDC).

The CASD has carried out a major update of its new website, which has been enhanced by focusing the browsing experience on projects and linking data sources to their documentation and scientific publications (<https://www.casd.eu/projets-de-recherche/>).

Since January 2018, the CASD has been coordinating the implementation of a collaborative scheme involving French, British, German and Dutch secure access centres in relation to the IDAN project (<https://idan.network/>). The aim is to facilitate access to these countries' data for researchers by eliminating the need for them to travel and making it easier for them to use data from several countries. This should make it possible for researchers working at one centre to access the data kept by all other centres. In line with its policy of opening up access to data for research purposes, INSEE has decided to authorise secure access to data for researchers in the United States and Canada. The Ministerial Statistical Office of the Ministry for Agriculture has decided to follow suit. This new opportunity will significantly increase the use of French data by the extensive scientific communities in these two countries.

In 2018, the CASD gave over 1,500 users secure access to more than 230 data sources originating from the Ministry for Agriculture (SSP), INSEE, the Ministry for the Economy and Finance (DGFIP), the Ministry for Justice, the Ministry for National Education (DEPP), the Banque Publique d'Investissement, the Ministry for Labour (DARES), the Central Agency for Social Security Bodies (ACOSS), the General Commission for Sustainable Development (CGDD) and the SDES, the ATIH (hospital stays-PMSI), the DGE, the ANIL, the ODR, the MSA, the IRDES, and the ARGIRC-ARRCO.

The entry into force of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in 2018 has significantly increased the data security obligations for everyone in charge of processing and their subcontractors. When it created the CASD ten years ago, INSEE had anticipated these new constraints by ensuring that its confidential data provision processes incorporated any security measures required to guarantee the confidentiality of these data.

2.3 Recommendations of the 2018 report of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)

ESGAB was created by the European Parliament and council in 2008, to provide an independent overview of the European Statistical System (ESS). ESGAB's mission is to exert control over the European Statistical System concerning the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice. It advises the Commission (Eurostat) on measures to facilitate the implementation of the Code of Practice, on how to disseminate it to users and how to update it. It may also provide advice on issues connected with users' trust in European statistics.

ESGAB is also responsible for producing an annual report for the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the Code of Practice in relation to the Commission (Eurostat). This report includes an evaluation of the implementation of the Code of Practice throughout the European Statistical System.

ESGAB consists of seven independent members with competence in the statistical field:

- Enrico Giovannini, Chairman (Italy)
- Kai Carstensen (Germany)
- Bart De Moor (Belgium)
- Mireille Elbaum (France)
- Jaume Garcia Villar (Spain)
- Frances Ruane (Ireland)
- Algirdas Semata (Lithuania)

In its 2018 report, the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB) urges statistical authorities in the European Statistical System to provide responses to some of the complex new challenges, i.e. changes in economic, environmental and social phenomena (from digitisation to globalisation and from climate change to migrations), the impact of what can be referred to as the “data revolution” on most aspects of their collection, processing and dissemination, the rapid transformation of the landscape of traditional and social media, the growing number of data producers and risks stemming from the inappropriate use of statistics in the public debate. This is why ESGAB is exhorting the statistical authorities to adopt a more proactive attitude by correcting fallacious or erroneous interpretations of data and by publicly reacting to any abusive use of official statistics.

“The European Statistical System (ESS) is a complex system and its governance requires continuous improvements to take into account the central role that statistics play in the functioning of the European Union”, declares Enrico Giovannini, Chairman of ESGAB. *“The way we deal with information has radically changed over the last decade. ‘Fake news’ and misinterpretations of evidence and statistics are more widespread in the public discourse than ever and often enter the political arena, placing new and demanding responsibilities on statistical authorities”*.

ESGAB’s 2018 report examines the challenges facing the European Statistical System. ESGAB commends the progress made on many issues over the last twelve months, thanks to the efforts made by Eurostat and the National Statistical Institutes to improve compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice. ESGAB is also very pleased with the updating of this code, adopted at the end of 2017.

Despite the progress made, ESGAB has made the following 14 recommendations:

1- Eurostat and the National Statistics Institutes (NSIs) should improve the comparability of key economic and social indicators that have been impaired by globalisation and digitisation processes. While maintaining a holistic approach, they should also prioritise measuring the consequences of these processes for the development of European statistics, as mentioned in the statement of position of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC).

2- Eurostat and the NSIs should implement large-scale strategies for relationships with users, while paying particular attention to researchers (possibly by creating a centralised department responsible for contact with users, a mechanism to take account of users’ reactions, etc.). A regular assessment of users’ involvement should be carried out to ensure that the tools used produce appropriate responses. Eurostat, in cooperation with the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC), should also prepare an overall review of national councils involving users and promote the creation of these bodies in countries in which they do not yet exist.

3- Considering the difficulties encountered in attracting and retaining staff with the required expertise, Eurostat and the NSIs should work with experts from academic environments and the private sector on identifying the new emerging competencies required in the different fields of activity of the ESS, and should employ appropriate resources to ensure the retraining of existing staff for posts requiring these key competencies.

4- Eurostat and the NSIs should step up their efforts to improve the statistical knowledge of European citizens and raise the awareness of professional users (especially in the media) about the correct use of statistics. In addition, to increase trust in official statistics, Eurostat and the NSIs should devote more effort to drawing public attention to abusive uses of the official statistics they disseminate.

5- To increase confidence in the ESS and the involvement of the public authorities at all levels, Eurostat and the NSIs should define a communication strategy for the entire peer assessment process and ensure the involvement of stakeholders in all stages before, during and after this process. This communication strategy and this stakeholder involvement should take account of all types of stakeholders, both inside and outside the

ESS, which will require specific actions according to the target group in question (other national authorities, executive powers, parliaments and users). This process should also clarify the relationship between statistics produced at the national level and those produced at the European level.

6- Eurostat and the INS should interact with the private sector by establishing partnerships designed to improve cooperation and collaboration (“creating synergies”) and reduce the reporting burden by using new sources of data to produce European statistics. These partnerships should ensure the control required by the ESS over the content, robustness, continuity and access conditions for these new sources of data.

7- To improve the general quality of the data produced by a wide range of private sources, Eurostat and the NSIs should promote reflection on establishing minimal standards for the quality of data that are likely to be monitored by entities operating in the European Union, such as companies and institutions not belonging to the ESS but which produce data and statistical indicators and would like to benefit from a “statistical quality” label.

8- Eurostat and the NSIs should promote reflection both on how to improve the current governance of the ESS, e.g. by encouraging the creation of bodies similar to ESGAB in each country, and on the long-term future of the ESS, taking account of possible changes in the governance of the European Union (based on different scenarios). In the new institutional context, it is important to maintain close collaboration with the United Kingdom, in order to ensure a shared understanding of simultaneous developments and thus preserve statistical comparability.

9- The European Commission and the ESS should agree on a minimum number of points to be covered by undertakings on trust in statistics and promote the production of independent undertakings by the national public authorities.

10- To maintain transparency and clarity, the NSIs should ensure either that the national undertakings on trust are directly accessible on the home pages of the websites in question, in the case of independent undertakings), or that clear reference to the specific legislation embodying this undertaking is made on this home page.

11- Considering ESGAB’s recommendation that the Code of Practice should be promoted as a quality mark, and although Eurostat has expressed a different opinion, Eurostat and the NSIs should envisage referring to the Code of Practice in all press releases, e.g. by using a standard statement worded specifically for this purpose and intended for journalists.

12- As the Code of Practice includes a new principle – 1bis – on coordination and cooperation, the NSIs should continue their cooperation with other national authorities while stepping up their coordination role within the national statistical system and in the production of national statistics. In addition, the Member States should ensure that progress is made towards implementing improvement measures that are dependent on authorities outside the NSI, with support from Eurostat if required.

13- The NSIs should clearly inform the public about policies relating to respect for privacy and the security of data and publish statements to this effect on their website (if they have not already done so).

14- To assess the implementation of improvement actions in an appropriate manner, Eurostat should produce an in-depth analysis that is also based on qualitative information, and that makes a distinction between actions required to ensure complete compliance with the Code of Practice, actions intended to make

substantial improvements to the functioning of the statistical system and the other improvement actions. The Advisory Board also advises Eurostat to envisage this type of categorisation when defining the methodology applicable to the new cycle of peer examinations.

3. Activity of the Official Statistics Authority in 2018

3.1 Sessions of the Authority

The Official Statistics Authority met four times in 2018 with the agendas described below.

28 March 2018

- Approval/quality labelling of the Notaries/INSEE indices of existing housing stock prices in the provinces:
Hearing of Maître Péré, member of the executive committee of the High Council of French Notaries (CSN), accompanied by Maître Thomas, President of the Notarial Institute for Property Law (INDI), S. Schoffit, head of the Perval (Réel. not) property database and S.Massonnet, head of the Min.not statistical office;
- Follow-up of the ASP's 2016 recommendations on the quality labelling of the monthly jobseekers statistics and presentation of the INSEE report on employment statistics:
Hearing of Ms Selma Mahfouz, Director of the DARES, and Mr Stéphane Ducatez, Director of Statistics, Studies and Evaluations at Pôle Emploi, Mr Vladimir Passeron, head of the Employment and Earned Income department at INSEE, Mr Isnard, member of the INSEE General Inspectorate and Mr Lollivier, in the presence of Mr Tavernier, Director General of INSEE;
- Presentation of the Authority's 2017 Annual Report, by Ms Claudine Gasnier, ASP Rapporteur.

20 June 2018

- Quality labelling of the monthly series on spending on medicines reimbursed by the health insurance scheme dispensed by community pharmacies: Hearing of Mr Claude GISSOT, Director of Strategy, Studies and Statistics at the CNAM;
- The ministerial statistical office for local authorities at the Directorate General for Local Authorities (DGCL): Hearing of Ms Cécile RAQUIN, Assistant Director of the DGCL accompanied by Mr Michel DUÉE, head of the Department for Local Studies and Statistics (MSO);
- Presentation of the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by Mr Patrick REDOR, head of the Legal Affairs and Disputes Unit at INSEE.

17 October 2018

- Quality labelling and renewal of the labelling of data series of the National Family Benefits Fund (CNAF): Hearing of Mr Bernard TAPIE, Director of Statistics, Studies and Research, accompanied by Mr Stéphane DONNÉ, Director of the Statistics, Information Systems and Big Data department;
- The ministerial statistical office for Agriculture (SSP: Department of Statistics and Forward Studies) Inserm: Hearing of Ms Béatrice SÉDILLOT, head of the statistical office.

8 January 2019

- Hearing of Mr Patrice DURAN, President of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS);
- Hearing of Mr Jean-Luc Tavernier, Director General of INSEE.

The subjects covered during these sessions were subject to the recommendations set out below, in the concluding paragraph (3.5). Pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of Decree no. 2009-250 relating to the Official Statistics Authority, in 2018 the ASP issued the two following opinions:

- a favourable opinion on the draft decree modifying the central organisation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Opinion of 20 February 2018);
- a favourable opinion on the draft decree amending Decree no. 2015-1771 of 24 December 2015 creating the department with national competence named the "National Institute of Youth and Popular Education" (Opinion of 13 November 2018).

Lists of the decisions made in the sessions and the different opinions issued by the ASP are available on the Official Statistics Authority's website at the following address: <http://www.autorite-statistique-publique.fr/asp>

3.2 Hearings of producers of official statistics

In 2018, the Authority conducted hearings of two ministerial statistical offices: the MSO for local authorities at the Directorate General for Local Authorities (DGCL) and that of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (SSP, Department of Statistics and Forward Studies), the latter in connection with the amendment of Decree no. 2008-636 of 30 June 2008 establishing the central organisation of its ministry, for which the ASP's opinion was sought in February 2018.

- ***The ministerial statistical office for local authorities at the Directorate General for Local Authorities (DGCL):***

The Department for Local Studies and Statistics which constitutes the MSO is directly attached to the Director General for Local Authorities. Placed alongside the three sub-directorates that make up the DGCL, the head of the MSO takes part in management committee meetings at which topical subjects affecting the Directorate are discussed.

The department enjoys almost-total autonomy in its relations with external partners, associations of local elected officials or institutions such as the Local Finance Committee (CFL) or the Local Public Finance and Management Observatory (OFGL). The head of department interacts directly with these partners without interference from the Directorate. The department is not intended to receive ministerial orders directly. Furthermore, it operates in two different modes for its publications. For subjects under embargo, namely the Statistical information bulletin on the number of territorial public service employees, the department only informs the ministerial offices of the date of publication and transmits the publication itself the day before at 6 pm. Studies, however, are presented for information purposes, and, to date, the department has not seen its publication refused or had corrections requested.

Within the Ministry of the Interior, the department maintains very few links with the two other MSOs (Immigration and Internal Security). On occasion, the department has however been involved in reflections within the ministry on forward studies and relations with academia. In this respect, the DGCL's publications contribute to the influence of the Ministry of the Interior overall.

Within the Directorate and the local authorities ecosystem, the department's role is to produce data that are as reliable and indisputable as possible. This small department of 185 people, mainly grade A managers, does not have a monopoly over knowledge of local authorities. The statistical department is something of an exception. Whatever the DGCL's outputs, they are critiqued and debated. On the other hand, the department's data output remains unchallenged. This basis of objectivity constitutes a considerable advantage, which allows the DGCL to dialogue with local authorities. The data output fuels public debate, but it also serves to construct reforms and apply them.

Internally, the department provides its support for the production of simulations to help prepare reforms. On 1 January 2017 a new map of intermunicipal groupings was adopted, which reduced the number of these bodies by 40%. The statistics department helped to position in the law the minimum population threshold for EPCIs (public inter-municipality cooperation establishments) in order to achieve a reasonable reduction in their number and a territorial map acceptable to local councillors. More recently, it was decided to introduce financial contracts for the 322 largest of these bodies. Once the programming law was passed in January, the department produced the statistics necessary for the drawing-up of these contracts whilst matching them to the scope of the current structures.

The statistical office has 10 officers, 7 grade A INSEE managers, 2 grade C Ministry of the Interior managers and one grade A contract manager. Its spheres of competence cover local authorities, including groupings with taxation powers and so-called "syndicates". It deals with subjects covering finance, taxation, public service and structural issues. As part of the official statistical service, the department participates in the CNIS

and is co-rapporteur of the latter's Territories Committee and the National Population Census Evaluation Commission (CNERP). On the other hand, the department does not deal with elections (DMAT), localised statistics (INSEE), statistical zoning (INSEE) or administrative zoning (CGET). Finally, the department does deal with the general operating grant (DGF) or other funds, and does not carry out simulations on reforms to these schemes, as these are the responsibility of the sub-directorate for Local Finance and Economic Action (FLAE) at the DGCL.

The department approaches local finances above all on the basis of the source provided by the DGFIP, the management accounts, which enable the tracking of all the income and expenditure of all local authorities. In the past, the department centralised in parallel the administrative accounts of certain authorities, but easier access to DGFIP data has enabled it to drop this source. In June 2018 the department published the first tables on the 2017 accounts. In methodological terms, the department has changed over to actual transactions, tracking the expenditure and income corresponding to inflows and outflows of money, without including purely accounts-based budgetary operations as in the past.

In 2017, the department also integrated subsidiary budgets (water, sanitation, etc.), which can represent quite large amounts in terms of investment. Finally, this year the cross-flows between these budgets and between authorities have been neutralised to produce consolidated accounts. This change has been made possible by a working group led by the department and the Local Public Finance and Management Observatory (OFGL), also involving the DGFIP, the Banque Postale, the Court of Auditors, the Caisse des Dépôts and a number of researchers.

On both the expenditure and the income side, the amounts are broken down according to different levels in the classification and the changes are calculated. The significant changes that have occurred over the last few years have led to a displacement of the boundaries between different levels of local authority. Thus, the Lyon Métropole authority set up in 2015 is both a Department and a grouping with taxation powers. Likewise, a number of "single authorities" serving as both Department and Region appeared in 2016. De facto, the changes are calculated based on constant scopes, to ensure they are meaningful.

Regarding the finances, the department uses the original budgets passed at the beginning of the year by the local authorities. To obtain exhaustive information on the subject, the department completes the incomplete data it receives from the DGFIP by having the Prefectures send it the documents passed by the Departments and Regions. The first publication takes place in June or July of year N+1.

Concerning local taxation, the department relies on the REI (the register of local tax data) provided by the DGFIP. Publication is in June of year N+1. The department breaks down changes in tax revenue into a base effect and a rate effect.

As far as local government staffing is concerning, this is a rather particular period. For many years, employee numbers were increasing, often very steeply, due in particular to the transfer of competencies from central to local government. For the last two years, these numbers have seen a downturn and have become a subject of close examination. The department uses INSEE's SIASP (public service employees information system) database. It is participating in the working group with the other statistical offices concerned and contributing its expertise by comparing the SIASP information with the staff lists included in local authorities' initial budgets in order to pick up on any inconsistencies or gaps in data collection. The publication on staffing levels comes out in December N+1. The department also co-signs the *INSEE Première* document published in summer N+2 on salaries in local government.

The department uses as a secondary source the social reviews that all local authorities have to present to their technical committees every two years. These documents are centralised at the DGCL with the help of the management centres situated in each Department. This source enables it to complete the information on local government employees on subjects not dealt with in SIASP (sick leave, risk prevention documents, etc.). The DGCL is striving to improve data collection thanks to a new application used in the management centres.

For intermunicipal groupings, the department uses two applications. In the ASPIC application in use in all the Prefectures, officers must enter all the changes concerning groupings with taxation powers (GFPs) and

intermunicipal "syndicates" or "mixed syndicates" (private/public bodies), whether these changes concern the members, the areas of competence, the distribution of the number of seats, etc. The DGCL has access to the centralised information and is therefore able, on this basis, to publish the map of intermunicipal groupings with taxation powers every January. The information is also made available on the Banatic application, the national database of intermunicipal groupings, which is freely available on the internet. As the map of the GFP is now practically stable, the DGCL wishes to improve the data and the analyses of the competencies of these groupings and to work more on the "syndicates" whose recomposition is ongoing.

In terms of output, every year the DGCL publishes a document entitled "Local authorities in figures", which is a statistical yearbook covering all the subjects dealt with by the department, and also the "Local Public Finance and Management Observatory (OFGL) report", a part of whose annexes are written by the sub-directorate for local finances. It also issues statistical information bulletins and a map of intermunicipal groupings. In addition to these publications, various tables are also posted online. The data are disseminated on the joint DGCL-DGFIP website, making them easier for the user to consult.

The data are also published on Banatic, the intermunicipal groupings portal, which provides online access to data on the scopes of the intermunicipal groupings and mapping tools. A link is provided to a page specific to the statistical office of the DGCL, which offers a certain amount of information: the publication calendar for the outputs, a reminder of the dissemination rules and a section on sources and methods, which is still in its infancy but to which the department is gradually adding material, in particular on the definition of the aggregates used for local authority finances or the breakdown of changes in the revenue from household taxes between the base effect and the rate effect.

- ***The ministerial statistical office for Agriculture (SSP: Department of Statistics and Forward Studies)***

In its opinion of 20 February 2018 on the draft decree integrating the statistical monitoring of fishing and aquaculture within the sphere of competence of the MSO, the Authority expressed its wish that the Agriculture statistical office come back to it on how these new areas of competence were to be integrated by autumn 2018: "*In order to ensure that the takeover of the statistical activities concerning fishing and aquaculture by the statistical office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food does not in any way delay their being brought up to the level required to ensure their compliance with the principles of official statistics, the Authority will hold a hearing with this office at its session on 17 October 2018*".

The organisation of the Agriculture ministerial statistical office is discussed before examining in more detail the monitoring of fishing and aquaculture, then the quality procedures adopted within the office in question.

Organisation of the Agriculture MSO

The Agriculture MSO encompasses two main entities. At central level, the Department of Statistics and Forward Studies (SSP) has 130 officers, including a third from INSEE. The SSP is based within the General Secretariat in view of its cross-cutting function. At the decentralised level, the MSO has 13 Statistical and Economic Information Departments (SRISEs) situated within the Regional Directorates for Food, Agriculture and Forestry (DRAAFs) and the 5 Economic Statistical Information Departments (SISEs) in the DOMs. Altogether this organisation has over 300 officers, with 20% from INSEE. These SRISEs have the status of MSOs, unlike the decentralised offices of the MSOs. Historically, these offices have in fact contributed to the statistical output and managed networks of investigators.

The number of officers fell by 11% between 2011 and 2018. The Agriculture MSO accounts for 24% of the total workforce of the MSOs and even 40% of the officers working for the decentralised offices.

The MSO's mission is twofold. Like all the ministerial statistical offices, it produces and disseminates statistics on the ministry's spheres of competence (agriculture, agri-food industry, forestry and, since 2018, fishing and aquaculture) with a view to informing the public debate. The MSO analyses at once production structures, the labour force, output, economic results, agricultural practices, etc. Most of the statistical output work is linked to European Regulations. These outputs are widely disseminated, in particular on the specialist site Agreste.

The MSO also has a monitoring, analysis and study role. It helps to design evaluation work and conducts forward studies to support decision-making. It managed a ministerial study programme, conducts forward study projects and may be called upon to use its data to carry out ex ante modelling of public policies. These works are published separately, without the Agreste logo, to differentiate them from the statistical outputs.

At the central level, the SSP has three sub-directorates, with teams based in Paris and/or Toulouse. A first sub-directorate is dedicated to statistical output. Among other things, it designs the office's different surveys on structures and production as well as on cropping practices. A second sub-directorate is in charge of situational and statistical summaries, and monitoring the economic results of agriculture and fishing. In particular it is in this sub-directorate that the accounts for agriculture are produced, in partnership with INSEE. Finally, the Studies and Forward Studies Centre joined the office in 2008 to develop monitoring, economic analysis, evaluation and forward studies works and take advantage of the close proximity of the statistics department. Two cross-cutting missions complete this organisation, one relating to the dissemination of data and the other to methods and statistical IT.

The SRISEs are generally organised into three divisions: data collection, summaries and situational information, studies and dissemination. In the agriculture field, a significant part of the surveys are still conducted face to face, although the number is tending to fall. As a result, the data collection division of the SRISEs runs a network of investigators who go out to farms. Nine of the SRISEs also have a "Market news" network in charge of tracking product prices, which is run by FranceAgriMer, a public establishment under the authority of the ministry.

Monitoring fishing and aquaculture

The monitoring of fishing and aquaculture is a new subject for the MSO, although on occasion in the past it has made its network of investigators available to carry out surveys in the fields of shellfish aquaculture and fish farming.

Monitoring of this sector is organised around four statistical operations: annual reporting to Eurostat on the catches and landings of fishery products by French fishing boats, statistical monitoring of production structures and aquaculture output with transmission of data to Eurostat, and production of economic data on the fishing fleet and aquaculture in line with the Data Collection Framework (DCF) Regulation.

This monitoring is centralised at SSP level and carried out by two FTEs. In Toulouse, one person attached to the Bureau for Structural, Environmental and Forestry Statistics (BSSEF) is in charge of the statistics on catches and landing and aquaculture output. The second person is based within the Bureau for Agricultural Output Statistics (BSPA) and deals with the economic results of fishing and aquaculture.

For catches and landings, a large amount of work has been done by the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition (MTES) to process the administrative data. The SSP used these programmes for its reporting to Eurostat in June 2018 on the 2017 data. A datasheet containing these data will be included in the forthcoming annual publication, *GraphAgri*. Furthermore, Eurostat will be launching a process of modernising these statistics in 2019 and France has applied to participate.

Concerning aquaculture, it was noted that there had been a delay in transmitting the data on output and employment to Eurostat for different reasons, in particular unfilled posts. The backlog will be made up by the end of the year. In spring 2018, survey data collected was merged for the 2016 and 2017 campaigns. This data was collected online and by telephone by BVA, under a specific public procurement contract, with

satisfactory response rates. The data are currently being validated. They will be transmitted next December and the 2018 data will be collected in 2019. These results will also be published in 2019 in the MSO's publishing media.

In parallel, the MSO is preparing a ten-yearly fish farming survey in 2019, to meet high demand expressed by professionals and the Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture (DPMA). The methodology will be presented to the Labelling Committee next January with a view to rolling out the data collection at the same time as the annual aquaculture survey. To do this, the MSO will use the services of an external provider under a four-year public procurement contract. To improve the response rate, the MSO will, in a second phase, mobilise the network of the SRISEs and its investigators to collect the missing data. Discussions with professionals are also underway on simplifying the questionnaire. This initiative will moreover serve as a test for the organisation chosen in 2020 for the agricultural survey.

Concerning the economic data on fishing and aquaculture, the MSO has retained the historic organisation, with partnerships between the SSP, IFREMER and the LEMNA, with the latter two bodies managing the data collection. For fishing, the 2017 indicators were provided to the DCF in summer 2018. The 2016 results will be published in *GraphAgri 2018* and the 2017 data will be highlighted at the beginning of 2019 in a 4-page document published by the SSP. For aquaculture, the economic data are also the subject of a partnership with the LEMNA. The indicators are expected to be submitted to the DCP early in 2019 will give rise to a publication by the SSP.

Medium-term perspectives

Like the entire official statistical service, the Agriculture MSO is facing a number of challenges in the medium term. In particular it must reduce the statistical burden on those surveyed. The MSO generally has very high response rates (of the order of 95%), but it strives not to overburden the subjects its surveys. The MSO must also reduce the cost and lead times for the production of statistical information. With these aims in mind, the MSO has embarked upon the modernisation of its data collection processes and has decided, among other things, to turn towards a multimodal approach, since farmers already make online declarations in connection with the CAP.

It will also be necessary to continuing extending, whenever possible, the use of administrative data and even private data, in addition to the surveys. Concerning agricultural practices, there are now private data available on land management that the MSO could use under the provisions of the Law for a Digital Republic to complete the surveys on cropping practices, which could then change, in the medium term, to a frequency of every five years instead of every three.

The MSO also wishes to develop more formally a quality framework to secure output and facilitate transmission. Today, as staff are more much more mobile within the service, it is necessary to ensure that knowledge is passed on. Finally, the MSO is keen to provide suitable support for the implementation of public policies, in particular by mobilising the data and expertise it has at its disposal.

With regard to the quality framework, INSEE and the MSOs are currently working on a common approach. A set of guidelines has therefore been drawn up for the MSOs. The Agriculture MSO has signed a quality commitment to clarify its strategy in this area by 2019 and is monitoring the action plan with an internal quality committee which holds a meeting with the wider management committee twice a year. Recent actions include the dissemination of a four-monthly calendar with a quick overview of all the situational information, the publication of a document setting out the embargo rules (with a special focus on the agriculture accounts released one week in advance to the ministerial offices and to the agriculture accounts committee), but also the identification and classification of statistical processes.

The MSO is currently working on mapping and documenting its processes for recurrent surveys and synthesis operations. In conjunction with INSEE's Quality unit, it has also been decided to carry out risk analyses on certain key processes, in particular with a view to the agricultural survey of 2020. The analysis conducted on different organisation scenarios for the future survey has enabled the exchanges to be

structured and the entire network to be involved in the initiative, all the more so as the next survey will be based on partially automated data collection. Other analyses could be carried out on the situational operations and the agricultural accounts information network (RICA).

In addition, the Agreste website is currently being recast along the same lines as the organisation chosen by INSEE for its own site. Finally, the MSO has begun a reflection on its medium-term orientations with the SRISEs in order to reduce the burden of data collection and processing, against a backdrop of reduced resources. An action plan was drawn up in 2017 and has been followed up at each of the meetings of the heads of the SRISEs.

3.3 Quality labelling of statistical uses derived from administrative sources

In order to improve the information provided to users and increase the scope of statistics able to contribute to public debate, the ASP decided in 2011 to set up a labelling procedure for official statistics emanating from the exploitation of administrative sources and produced outside the official statistical service (SSP). The aim of labelling is to guarantee compliance with the principle of professional independence in the design, production and publication of these statistics as well as with the principles of impartiality, relevance and quality of the data produced.

From 2011 to 2013, the preparation of labelling applications was subject to a simplified procedure at the initiative of the ASP. Only the labelling of the monthly statistics on jobseekers registered at Pôle Emploi rested on an examination carried out by the general inspectorates (IGF, IGAS, INSEE) which the Authority could call upon. In 2013, statistical governance was completed by a Decree dated 10 January 2013 which organises the labelling of statistical processes carried out using administrative data, as well as by an Order dated 2 May 2013 on the conditions of organisation of the official statistics Labelling Committee. This Order set up a committee competent to issue opinions resulting from the examination, on behalf of the ASP and at its request, of the processes of exploitation and dissemination of administrative data. These opinions are transmitted to the President of the ASP, who can issue the processes examined with a public interest and statistical quality label, in reference to the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The Labelling Committee, which until then only examined survey data, is now also able to examine data from administrative files. The ASP therefore bases the consideration for labelling of series of statistics produced by organisations that do not belong to the SSP on this examination by the Labelling Committee.

- ***Quality labelling of the Notaries/INSEE indices of existing housing stock prices in the provinces:***

As a reminder, the Notaries-INSEE quarterly indices of existing housing stock prices for Île-de-France were granted the Authority's quality label in 2011. There was no question of labelling the provincial indices at the time as the collection of data on property transactions was purely voluntary and the data seemed insufficiently representative. Since then, the notaries have continued to work on the subjects, methodologies have changed, and under the Order of 30 September 2016, notaries are now compelled to provide the High Council of French Notaries (CSN) with the data necessary for the exercising of this public service mission. The representativeness issue is therefore potentially resolved.

The tools and general policy of the notary's profession, as well as the obligation introduced in January 2017, will allow the coverage rate and the indices to be improved. The organisation is centred on a political body, the High Council of French Notaries (CSN), which completes the databases, and on the Association for the Development of Notarial Services (ADSN), which designs suitable technological tools.

The property database was set up by notaries a long time ago to provide some fluidity and stability in the market by relying on real prices and providing citizens with useful tools. With the advent of electronic file

transfer (2010), dematerialisation and the development of electronic deeds, notaries are now able to ensure interoperability between data and rapid inputting of information into databases. This obligation to complete databases rests on a law dating from 2011 and a decree issued in 2016, which provide for the CSN to centralise and disseminate these data.

The completion of the property database starts in the notary's office, during the process of drawing up the deed of sale, with actions to collect information on the property. The software used to draw up the deeds enables checks to be made from the start of the procedure and offers input assistance for notaries and their employees. The paper input channel persists, but has fallen back steeply, gradually being replaced by electronic file transfer, which allows information to be collected from the pre-contract stage onwards, without generating extra input work in the notary's office since the data thus entered can be retrieved for the deed itself.

Once collected at the office, the data are transferred to the information system. Paper deeds are sent with information on the property. A team of codifying experts transcribes the information in the deed to input it into the property database. This exercise is subject to dual checking. The codifier himself can correct the data at the time of entering it, and then a second human checker ensures the data are of good quality. The data transmitted electronically are the subject of a first technical check. If it seems that the data are inconsistent or incomplete, the notary is alerted immediately and can correct them before transmitting them again.

When the base is completed with raw flows, geocoding checks are implemented, as well as 140 functional checks that can pick up on inconsistencies in the data. The data are then inputted into the production database and a team of experts carries out further checks on the copies of deeds and the information transferred electronically and can make corrections. This correction of the deeds is also subject to dual checking to ensure the quality of the data. It is only after all these different checks have been carried out that the data are made available for publication and calculation of the index.

The base contains over 14 million property transfers. By the end of 2017, the input rate stood at 60% and since it became compulsory to enter deeds in January 2017 a significant increase has been noted. Properties are classified in 8 categories. Between 80 and 100 fields are validated by the experts before the data are finally made available in order to guarantee the best qualification possible of the property and the parties to the deed.

The indices are the result of a partnership with INSEE set up in 1997 and formalised by an agreement, the most recent version of which dates from 2014, which lays down the participation and obligations of each party. Every three months a scientific committee meets to exercise a role of reflection and advice on the method of calculation, the property databases or the dissemination of the series of indices. When the indices are revised, every 7 or 8 years, working groups are organised to deal with all the methodological aspects.

The series are disseminated in a raw version and in a seasonal adjusted version. Each new series will be the subject of meticulous analysis by INSEE to guarantee its reliability. Today, the series are published in four versions: advanced provisional 2 months after the end of the quarter, three-month provisional, semi-final and final after 6 months. The notaries have a target of reducing the number of versions to two, as for Île-de-France, within the next year, thanks to the ramping up of electronic file transfer. Before each publication, a dashboard is sent to INSEE for validation of the indices. The dissemination calendar is fixed at the end of the year and the next dissemination date is released each time an index is published.

The index covers only existing housing stock, houses and apartments, sold at market prices. Properties that are not unoccupied, or are not sold in outright ownership by private or atypical properties such as châteaux, are excluded from the scope. The calculation of the index relies on an econometric model. Each characteristic of the property is allocated a weighting. These weightings are updated every two years to take account of changes in the market.

INSEE checks all the revisions made when passing from one version to another and reviews the extent of these revisions in a quarterly publication entitled *Informations rapides*. Any anomaly will be subjected to in-depth analysis by the scientific committee. If the series need to be revised, this will be explicitly mentioned

in *Informations rapides*. After each update, an *INSEE Méthodes* is issued which details all the changes that have occurred in the method and the series are backcast to appreciate the impact of these changes on the final index.

The indices are disseminated by INSEE via the macro-economic databank, quarterly publications (*Informations rapides*) and one-off publications (*INSEE Première* or *INSEE Références*). For its part, the notarial profession organises an annual press conference to present the property figures for the whole of France. It also publishes a quarterly situational note which systematically begins by publishing the INSEE indices. The notaries now wish to increase the frequency of these publications to bring them into line with the Paris experience. Finally, the regional and departmental professional bodies also communicate regularly on the INSEE indices.

The Labelling Committee has examined the technical quality labelling application and heard representatives of the notaries. The Committee has recommended granting the quality label to all the series of quarterly indices for which labelling has been sought, for five years. Its opinion is subject to the following recommendations:

- The Labelling Committee stresses the importance of the scientific committee for the methodological aspects, the medium-term alignment of the methods with Île-de-France, the quarterly monitoring of outputs and the examination of the results.
- The Committee notes that even though it is not fully effective, the obligation that has been in force since 1 January 2017 provides a solid basis for the collection of data and allows for the possibility that it will be exhaustive in the near future, and it should guarantee the absence of selection bias in certain parts of the property market. This comprehensive coverage will probably lead to an increase in volume that will need to be accompanied. Nonetheless, it offers a further guarantee of quality for the Labelling Committee.
- The Committee stresses the need to carefully target the embedded checks on the key variables in the system in order to reduce imputations of sensitive variables in the models as far as possible.
- The Committee encourages the continuation of the reflection undertaken on this convergence, as it will allow good practices on both sides to be shared.
- On the other hand, the Labelling Committee considers that the calibration carried out on the DGFIP data to make up for the lack of comprehensiveness of the data remains perfectible, since these data are retrieved without any specific agreement and using a method that is not transparently described.
- The Committee considers that the quality-labelled data are clearly identified in INSEE publications. This is also the case in the notarial profession's publication, but a little less clearly for non-specialists. The Committee has therefore recommended clearly distinguishing data that are quality-labelled from those that are not.

It also noted, furthermore, that a lot of figures were disseminated on changes to median prices. In actual fact, these are not changes on a like-for-like basis, and the difference is worth highlighting so that the user is fully aware of it.

Along the same lines, the Committee considered that it would be a good idea to put out a small vade mecum to help the departmental chambers with their communication. It invited the profession to clearly document the recasting of the methodology. Finally, it emphasised the need to explain to the general public the meaning of this index of flows that does not describe changes in the assets of the French population, but reflects the dwellings put on the market.

- The committee also recommended reducing the number of versions from four to two. It further noted that with the growing coverage of transactions, the dissemination of the indices could be extended to other regions and therefore suggested that the scientific committee be the guarantor of this extension to dissemination with the power to give the go-ahead after examining the statistical robustness of the series (see the ASP's opinion in Annexe 4).

The Labelling Committee made the same recommendations for the renewal of the quality labelling of the Île-de-France indices, commending the wish to achieve the convergence of the two indices under the aegis of the scientific committee.

- ***Follow-up of the Authority's 2016 recommendations on the quality labelling of the monthly jobseekers statistics and presentation of the INSEE report on employment statistics:***

The quality labelling of the numbers of jobseekers registered at the end of the month (DEFM) was granted in 2016 subject to some recommendations and review clauses. These recommendations were confirmed by the 2016 Senate report. In any case, the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCP), which recommends making the best possible use of administrative sources, also emphasises the need to render data from several sources comparable in order to ensure good comprehension. Apart from the unemployment figures, it appeared at the Authority's hearing in 2016 that progress needed to be made in understanding the discrepancies between the administrative data and the INSEE Labour Force survey concerning the assessment of employment. On this point, INSEE had commissioned a report from its General Inspectorate.

The first results concerning the DEFM series and that of ILO unemployed showed that the persistent or wide discrepancies between the two series are not attributable to statistical factors differentiating administrative sources and survey data, but are due to differences in concepts used in the measurement of unemployment, such as availability for work, for example. In fact, the series that can be constructed from the question contained in the Labour Force survey at the time of registering with Pôle Emploi leads to the same developments as the DEFM series in category A.

Furthermore, matching work done on the two sources has enabled the origin of these discrepancies to be clarified. Accordingly, it appears that about a quarter of the jobseekers registered in category A are inactive within the meaning of the ILO (with jobseekers in the "pure inactive" and "halo" categories in more or less equal proportions), and most of the gap is accounted for by these people. A much smaller proportion is considered as being in employment as defined by the ILO, having worked one hour in the week being sufficient for that.

- ***Quality labelling of the monthly series on spending on medicines reimbursed by the health insurance scheme dispensed by community pharmacies***

It will be recalled that the ASP already granted the quality label to the CNAM's monthly sickness insurance expenditure series in March 2015. Like ACOSS or Pôle Emploi, the CNAM (national health insurance administration) manages "administrative data" that merit being integrated into the official statistical service. Nevertheless, as they are produced outside the ministerial statistical offices, it is necessary to ensure that they meet the methodological requirements for official statistics.

The CNAM has requested the quality labelling of the series on spending on medicines dispensed by community pharmacies. This dynamic item does in fact represent something like €25 billion and has been the subject of many, highly varied requests.

To choose which series to have quality-labelled, the CNAM relies on the data most often requested of it. These data have long been accessible to the public on the CNAM website. They are also placed at the disposal of different operators, including the DARES. By embarking on a quality labelling process, the CNAM is undertaking to produce these data on a regular basis, whilst also ensuring greater visibility externally. Labelling also provides a reliable framework for data presented as the appropriate source. These data emanate from a single system, the SNDS (National Health Data System), which relies on the SNIIRAM. They reflect reimbursements, qualified in terms of certification. The CNAM's accounts are in fact certified annually by the Court of Auditors, which can also carry out periodic checks.

The CNAM's reasoning is based on the most common questions about the most widely used medicines in France, the weight of a medicine in a therapeutic class, etc. The main enquiries concern quantities. These questions are of interest to journalists, as well as students, doctors and healthcare professionals and patients' associations.

For drugs, the data cover all the health insurance regimes and all the risks. What are not covered, however, are drugs prescribed in hospitals for outpatients or inpatients. The data are produced on a monthly basis in the month of reimbursement. The indicators produced cover the amount reimbursed, the amount reimbursable and the number of boxes dispensed. The data are raw, non-seasonally adjusted and uncorrected for business/working days. The CNAM considers, in fact, that 90% of the expenditure of a given month is dealt with in the same month and therefore it does not carry out any revision.

The drugs are classified at the most detailed level, CIP13, which describes the dosage, the dosage form and the packaging. The drugs are classified according to the different levels of the ATC international drug classification system devised by the WHO, which allows more macroscopic analyses to be carried out. The CNAM does not use ad hoc classifications. As regards historical data, the monthly data are available from January 2005. Prior to that, they were only produced annually. The general health insurance regime inputs data every night. Other regimes do the same every week or every ten days, but the CNAM considers that it has all the necessary information at the end of month M+3. The CNAM also provided the link to open medic, which offers further information on drug consumption.

The observation of expenditure on a given drug can sometimes show very large fluctuations from one month to another. The use of these data must therefore be specified. As the Levothyrox example showed in 2017, a reduction in the number of reimbursements does not mean it can be deduced that the number of people treated has fallen. The CNAM will therefore include help in the use of these data in its publication. These items have finally been inserted in the quality-labelled series section on the CNAM website, which is currently being overhauled.

The Labelling Committee has examined the application for the quality labelling of MediCAM data, an application that has changed over time. Originally, the CNAM was seeking the labelling of raw data to a very detailed level of the drug packaging. During the course of the examination by the Labelling Committee and the related experts, it was deemed expedient to produce aggregated series in order to facilitate the use of the raw data. The Labelling Committee proposed that these series be based on the five levels of the ATC (Anatomical, Therapeutic, Chemical) classification devised by the WHO and stressed the need to provide the user with guidance to understand these different levels. The Committee also recommended that downloading of these series should be facilitated. Complementary sub-series could also prove to be useful (brand-name, generic, non-generic).

Concerning the production process, the Committee did not carry out any more advanced investigations. An annual check is already carried out as part of the process of certifying the accounts. The Committee has therefore relied on the guarantees provided in this context.

Downstream processing mainly consists of ensuring the comprehensive nature of the data. Unlike the monthly sickness insurance expenditure previously labelled, these data cover all the insurance regimes and not just the general regime; the three-month delay provides enough time to ensure the exhaustive collection of data from all the regimes. Concerning the data on expenditures on the date of reimbursement, they do not present any particular methodological difficulties, as they are recorded in real time by the health insurance system.

Concerning the dissemination of data and metadata, the Committee noted that the CNAM identifies the quality-labelled series on its website and will continue to do so once the site has been updated. The dissemination calendar is published. The Labelling Committee recommended that the drug data and series should be coupled with the necessary metadata and accompanied by substantial documentation to clarify the scope, concepts and definitions, in particular the notion of reimbursed expenditure (as, for example, the amounts reimbursed are not necessarily homogeneous over time as the rate of reimbursement may change), the different levels of classification and the specific references to the classifications. Finally, it is necessary to accompany the dissemination with illustrative examples to provide users of the data with the best possible guidance.

Regarding whether to grant the quality labelling to the aggregated series or the raw base of monthly data, the Labelling Committee recommended labelling the detailed base (approximately 13,000 lines) as well as the series constructed on expenditure, with the five ATC classification levels. Making a distinction between the two did not seem to be appropriate, as the series is constituted by adding up elementary expenditures (See the ASP opinion in Annex 5).

- ***Quality labelling and renewal of the labelling of data series produced by the National family benefits fund (CNAF):***

It is pointed out that this hearing took place as part of the procedure for the renewal of the quality labelling of the data series produced by the CNAF already labelled in 2012. Beyond this renewal the CNAF wishes to enrich the statistical output by including a larger number of series.

The corresponding data are of general interest and offer guarantees of quality. These data are not intended to socially characterise the population, although the titles of certain series may give this impression. They aim to provide a picture of how the French social and taxation system operates.

The quality of the data rests on two things. First of all, the administrative data are compliant with the regulations and their quality is guaranteed by the certification of the Court of Auditors. Furthermore, the CNAF's statistics department converts these administrative data into statistical outputs by means that comply with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The CNAF is seeking the quality labelling of 61 series. These series cover different areas.

For statutory benefits, the coverage rate does not necessarily reach 100%, but the CNAF considers that these series have been found to be useful to the provision of a very detailed picture of the family and social component of the French social and taxation system.

In the field of welfare provision, the CNAF data offer unique and homogeneous appreciation over time of the funding granted in emerging public interest fields (third places). On services for young children, the current statistical system does not allow a homogeneous measurement of all the components of supply and demand, but all the producers of statistics have agreed on these notions within the ONAPE (National Early Childhood Observatory), giving them a public interest character. The CNAF considers that this consensus constitutes a virtually optimum point of equilibrium.

Concerning the quality of the data, the administrative data on which they are based are certified by the Court of Auditors as being compliant with the regulation. As well as this accounting certification, a corroboration operation between the accounting data and the statistical data serves to ensure that the two notions match up. The Court of Auditors expressed some reservations about the input data, that is, the information provided by the recipients of benefits. It is true that a certain number of errors remain, even after the checking procedure. However, this is a different subject to that of the quality of the statistical data, since the statistical data correctly reflect the benefits paid.

As for the quality of the production process itself, the CNAF strives to comply with the European Statistics Code of Practice. The Directorate of Statistics, Studies and Research (DSER) benefits from the independence guaranteed in the organisation's regulations and confirmed in a letter of engagement from the Director General. The DSER is headed by a professional trained in statistical techniques and who is a member of the CNAF's executive committee. The methods employed depend entirely on him. The employees in charge of the production of statistical series are highly trained and sufficient in number. This unit is dedicated to statistical output. Furthermore, its professional independence is guaranteed by the organisation's regulations.

Finally, the dissemination media for these statistical data are separate from the CNAF's publications. On CAFDATA, the open data site for the family branch, the data are regularly updated and the series are classified by theme and sub-theme. The document on the key figures for statutory benefits contains the key data and 80 detailed statistical tables covering all the benefits. Finally, the quarterly publications *RSA Conjoncture* and *PPA Conjoncture* provide short-term monitoring of these two benefits (RSA, earned income supplement, and PPA, activity bonus).

Apart from the DSER, a unit in the information system department (DSI) is responsible for data outputs. The overhaul of the statistical production chain has consisted of merging three chains into one, which has enabled the inconsistencies between the chains to be eliminated and the reliability of the data to be improved. The DSER also checks the quality and integrity of the data every month according to a documented procedure.

The quality label granted in 2012 raised awareness in the family branch of its involvement in the output of public interest data. It also led to a certain number of concrete changes, in particular the assertion of the independence of the DSER in the organisation's regulations and the develop of access to data for researchers. The CNAF therefore deposited seven years' worth of data with the Secure Remote Access Centre (CASD). Finally, resources were mobilised for the development of CAFDATA. The CNAF also identified avenues for progress, in particular the identification of the quality-labelled series on the CAFDATA site in the first quarter of 2019 at the latest, the finalisation of the data output charter and the transparent management of the break in the series due to the overhaul.

The data include synthetic data on the recipients of statutory benefits (enumeration data and accounting data on the scope of the general regime and all regimes).

The series also include data on early childhood (enumeration of households receiving the young child allowance (PAJE) and welfare expenditure on childcare provision for young children), as well as two indicators relating to young children (overall coverage rate and number of places per type of childcare facility). These series are constructed collectively within the ONAPE. Even though improvements seem possible, the producers have reached a point of equilibrium today. The CNAF, moreover, enclosed two documents with its application that describe the conditions in which the producers arrived at a consensus and how they have been operating for ten years.

Finally, the CNAF is seeking the quality labelling of data relating to solidarity and integration (RSA, PPA, AAH, etc.), in particular series 55 concerning a number of the recipients of the RSA benefit, constructed on a constant scale corrected for seasonal variations.

The Labelling Committee, which is in charge of examining applications on behalf of the ASP, insisted on the need to identify the quality-labelled series on the website.

The dissemination calendar was announced on the site, following the exchanges at the Labelling Committee session.

As in the past, the labelling application concerned the series extracted at M+2, as the CNAF has not yet made a decision on the strategy for disseminating data at M+6. Now, these data offer more distance and make it possible to take better account of income adjustments within the framework of the quarterly declarations and therefore to revise the number of recipients receiving means-tested benefits. As a result, they are of better quality. Nevertheless, the switchover system has not yet been specified and remains an unknown in the strategy envisaged by the CNAF for backcasting, the depth of the new series and what will happen to the M+2 series. At this stage, quality labelling has been formally requested for the data extracted from the bases at M+2, which do not constitute final data. Significant differences can be observed on benefits revised after means testing. The Labelling Committee has therefore recommended that the CNAF clarify its strategy for switching over from M+2 to M+6 extractions and that it inform the ASP of it for future labelling of M+6 data.

As regards the metadata, the CNAF is sensitive to the need to inform users, both in terms of description of the series and information on breaks in them. The Labelling Committee therefore encouraged it to continue paying attention to this point and to further improve the legibility of the information for the general public.

Concerning geographical coverage, the Labelling Committee considered that it would be necessary to look into the possibility of switching from the Department where benefit recipients are managed to their Department of residence for all the series.

The Committee also considered that any introduction of a new statutory benefit should give rise to the labelling of a series on the number of its beneficiaries without there being any need to go before the committee and the ASP again as long as such a series is produced within the same framework.

Concerning the opening up of data to researchers, the CNAF has always made its data available to researchers by means of specific agreements. It has just done so through the wider framework of the CASD: the 2017 data were made available to the CASD in March 2018. The CNAF has undertaken to continue doing the same for earlier data.

The Labelling Committee also examined the extensions to the labelling application.

The series on the recipients of the basic "constant scale" RSA corrected for seasonal variations is not published in the sets of data made available but in a quarterly publication. The Labelling Committee considered that it should continue to be published in this way, with the necessary methodological explanations, but that it should not be labelled as such, given its different nature compared to the other series granted quality labelling.

On the expenditure on "all regime" benefits, the Committee considered that to clarify the usage of the data, it was useful for the user to have knowledge of the share of the CNAF compared to all the "all regime" benefits. It was therefore considered that these data could be quality-labelled subject to care being taken to ensure their consistency with those published elsewhere (Social Security or welfare accounts).

For welfare spending in the early childhood field, as the scope is very clearly identified, the Committee considered that the series could be quality-labelled, as its production is based on a well-controlled classification.

On the other hand, it considered that it was delicate to bring the two other series, overall childcare coverage rate for young children and number of places per type of childcare facility, within the framework of the labelling. Indeed, these indicators are based to a large extent on conventions on the counting of the number of places on offer: given the lack of information available on the number of places offered in all types of childcare facility, the indicator is constructed using convention-based rules based on available data gathered as part of the partnership with the National Early Childhood Observatory (ONAPE). The data are published at a very fine level of geographical meshing, after applying various keys to divide up the offer at an aggregated level into a very fine level. The question may therefore arise as to the right level of detail to use for this type of indicator.

The Committee therefore recommended that these data continue to be published in the ONAPE report with the methodological explanations necessary for their use, but that they do not come within the scope of the CNAF's quality-labelled series. It also raised an institutional question on the status of the ONAPE publications under the terms of the partnership agreement, which it will be necessary to check in order to see if these data can also be published as CNAF publications (See the ASP opinion in Annex 6).

3.4 New sources of big data for official statistics

The ASP is taking an interest in the use of data from the "digital" economy, which offer new opportunities for official statistics, but also many challenges. Big data have the advantage of producing more information virtually instantaneously and can therefore be used to complete survey data or produce advanced indicators, although such contributions require appropriate expertise. Coming generally from piecemeal sources that tend to be very varied both in their content and in their quality, they cannot, however, replace the existing arrangements, in particular household surveys which rely on stringent data collection protocols.

The arrival of big data on the data market implies trade-offs between quality, speed of publication and granularity, bearing in mind that official statistics will continue to prioritise quality. Official statistics must, moreover, make every effort to maintain trust in surveys, including in the confidentiality of the data entrusted, the privacy of the people surveyed and the trade secrets of enterprises.

At international level

In March 2018, one of the main themes for discussion by the United Nations Statistical Commission concerned the use of megadata by official statistics. The UN's statistics division has prepared a feasibility study with a view to setting up a global platform to work on big data. INSEE and New Zealand spoke on the issues of ethics and confidentiality that the creation of this platform could arouse, at a time when the European Union was tightening up its policy on personal data protection.

In June 2018, the subject of "NSI strategies in the digital era" was debated at the annual meeting of the OECD statistics committee. According to the OECD, it is essential that the NSIs adapt to the digital era (emergence of new data and new techniques for exploiting data) through a clear strategy and conceptual

framework. The OECD describes the challenges of the digital era as well as its strategy in this field in the "OECD Smart Data Framework", which it calls upon the NSIs to adopt. INSEE pointed out that in the French case, the Law for a Digital Republic gave the Institute access to private sector data (big data), as long as the use of the data is justified as being in the public interest.

At European level

In February 2018, the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) approved the roadmap on smart statistics and big data, whilst suggesting that issues relating to governance of data and the potential impact of the GDPR on the work based on big data should be studied in more depth.

In June 2018, at the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), a seminar was devoted to the "new areas covered by official statistics", which looked in detail at the contributions and limits of big data from the user's point of view, the inevitable development of their use by the NSIs, without for all that replacing surveys for the measurement of complex concepts.

In October 2018, the annual conference of the Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes (DGINS) was held on the theme of "New statistical opportunities and production models deriving from digitalisation of societies and Big Data".

Five years on from the Scheveningen Memorandum on Big Data adopted by the DGINS in 2013, the conference provided an opportunity to take stock of the ways new data sources are being used by the NSIs, based on a review of the ESSnet Big Data I, the UN Big Data task force and also the concrete experience of a number of NSIs.

It is in the field of consumer prices that official statistics have made the most progress, in different countries on the use of scanner data or else price data directly mentioned on the internet to calculate the CPI.

Another promising area seems to be emerging for implementation in production: this is the retrieval of information available on company websites (existence of an e-commerce site, online job offers, etc.) to answer some of the questions in the enterprises ICT survey or to enrich the data in business registers.

As far as mobile phone data are concerned, the discussions mostly reported difficulties in accessing the data themselves, as half of European telephone operators are already making commercial use of their data.

Eurostat, in collaboration with Proximus, a Belgian mobile phone operator, presented a model of a partnership between an NSI and mobile phone operator which respects the interests of both sides as well as the confidentiality rules. This model proposes a reference computer architecture that allows secure sharing of outputs by the NSI and the operators, combining official statistical data and mobile phone data whilst respecting the confidentiality rules of each party (secure multiparty computation).

As the use of private data to prepare official statistics is an important issue, several countries asked Eurostat to legislate on the subject at European level; certain countries (including France) have obtained the principle that such access be included in national law, but this is not the case everywhere. What did come out of the discussions, however, was that even when there is a domestic law allowing access to data and providing for sanctions in the event of non-transmission, negotiations with private owners of data were still necessary and could be long before arriving at effective access.

Regarding "smart statistics", namely statistics based on the use of the internet of things, it transpired that the NSIs' experimentations in this area were still in their infancy, except for some work on "smart cities" done by the Dutch Institute as part of the "Urban Data Centre" conducted in partnership with several Dutch cities.

The Bucharest Memorandum on "Official statistics in a datafied society (Trusted smart statistics)" whose aim is to encourage European NSIs to work on new data sources, with particular emphasis being placed on the internet of things, was adopted by the ESSC on the heels of the DGINS conference.

On the organisational front, a few NSIs (Netherlands, Italy, United Kingdom, France) have set up a structure in charge of fostering and developing innovation in data science within their organisation.

Finally and more broadly, the DGs of the INS considered the changes to their role in an ever more digitalised society including new actors, private ones in particular, producing data whose quality is not always proven. The question of the certification by the NSIs of the data produced by these private actors was raised and will need to be the subject of reflection.

From February 2016 to June 2018, the structure at INSEE devoted to innovation, which became SSP Lab in March 2018, took part in the ESSnet Big Data I with more than twenty countries in the European Statistical System.

The ESSnet included eight work packages of content: job vacancy webscraping, in which the DARES took part, enterprise characteristics webscraping, smart meters, AIS (Automatic Identification System) ship tracking data, mobile phone data, in which INSEE took part, early estimates, multiple domains, methodology.

The work will continue over the period 2018-2020 as part of the ESSnet Big Data II. In the most advanced fields, the ESSnet Big Data II intends to develop implementable production prototypes (job vacancy and enterprise characteristics webscraping, smart meters and AIS data). The pilot work will continue on mobile phones, banking transactions, use of satellite images, and innovative sources for tourism data.

Within the Agriculture MSO, concerning satellite images, expertise assessments are ongoing on the possibility of using space observation to measure land occupancy and use as part of the Teruti survey scheme. Work has begun with the Centre for the Study of the Biosphere from Space (CESBio) at INRA with a view to assessing the possibility of using satellite data and related models to detect changes in land occupancy and better target points that need revisiting. This work will be done as part of the ESS Net Big Data II.

Until summer 2017, the DARES was issuing a joint publication with Pôle Emploi on tensions in the labour market. This was based only on the job offers collected by Pôle Emploi and not on all the offers disseminated by Pôle Emploi (which also include offers re-disseminated under an agreement with a partner site) or on other offers accessible via scraping techniques. This is the reason why the publication has been temporarily suspended, so that other short-term data sources can be assessed and to reinforce the robustness of job vacancy indicators.

With the aim of improving the measurement of job vacancies over the widest possible scope, work is being done under the auspices of the European "ESSNet Big Data – Webscraping job vacancies" project. For the DARES, this has involved investing in "big data" approaches (use of new data, scraping, machine learning). This work is also using data from Pôle Emploi's job aggregator, but also from the Ofer survey.

The two main focuses of the analysis are:

- The structuring of the information contained in the data scraped from the Internet. In particular, the question of the codification of essential analysis variables (such as the trade or qualifications asked for) will be studied.
- Duplicate detection (vacancies published on several job sites).

INSEE will also participate in the work package on remotely sensed data with the aim in particular of assessing the possibility of calculating certain sustainable development indicators (such as the presence of open or green spaces in cities).

INSEE has also expressed an interest in working on the "citizen science data and smart cities" work package, which is close to the issues being addressed by the working group on innovative data sources for local statistics.

INSEE will also be involved in the "Implementation" work package, which aims to describe reference architectures at application level and above necessary to big data, at European level as well as at national level.

At national level

Several of SSP Lab's investments concern the exploitation of new data sources, with, among other things, the continuation of work already begun before 2018 on mobile phone data in a collaboration with the operator Orange.

Other projects launched in 2018 aim to make the most of sources in more conventional formats, but which are underused, such as the "all active" and "non-salaried" panels developed by INSEE.

Another area of work concerns the development of innovative statistical methods, in order to identify the ones most relevant to the work done within the French official statistical service, whether it concerns the reprocessing of data (machine learning to pick up anomalies in administrative data, text analysis methods for automatic coding) or original data harvesting (web scraping in particular).

Other work is focusing on methods whose relevance to the SSP's work is already acknowledged, but which can contribute to wider appropriation by practitioners, in particular by carrying out original applied studies (matching of residential and educational segregation with the DEPP, or analysis of pay inequality with INSEE's Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate (DSDS)).

At INSEE, the "scanner data" project aims to use checkout data collected by large supermarket chains to calculate the consumer price index. Following an experimental phase that demonstrated the feasibility of using these large-scale data and the statistical gain from doing so, a consultation process took place between the retailers and INSEE with the aim of overcoming the main difficulties involved in transmitting these data. After obtaining a favourable opinion from the CNIS, an Order making the transmission of scanner data by non-specialist predominantly food stores larger than 400 m² mandatory was signed by the Minister on 13 April 2017. This Order was issued under Article 3bis of the 1951 Law on legal obligation, coordination and confidentiality in the field of statistics, amended by Article 19 of the Law of 7 October 2016 for a Digital Republic. The consultation with retailers provided that, in addition to this Order, agreements would be signed between INSEE and the retailers detailing the methods and conditions of transmission and retention of the data for each retail chain. INSEE now receives all the scanner data from the main supermarket chains on a daily basis (excluding hard discounters).

INSEE's objective is to use the scanner data instead of the data currently collected in super and hypermarkets on industrial food, homecare and personal care products. To handle this huge volume of data and the specific methodological issues, a dedicated application has been developed. A double calculation of the consumer price index, with traditional method on the ground and scanner data, will be carried out in 2019 and then, in 2020, the consumer price index that is published will be based only on scanner data.

At the Directorate for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics (DREES), a "Health Lab" has been set up to encourage the development of datascience-type approaches to support the work of the researchers. In concrete terms this means fostering acculturation and dissemination through internal and open seminars, training sessions and workshops, support on given projects (for example in helping to produce tools for data visualisation, automatic webscraping, mobilising innovative approaches such as machine learning or text analysis) and the promotion of open-source software and shared tools.

The Health Lab, along with the offices of the DREES, is investing in raising its skills in the use of the National Health Data System (SNDS), through the introduction of a big data platform and the creation of collaborative and shared tools (database dictionary, data models, etc.). For example, the DREES has produced a tool to automatically generate codes to lighten the burden of producing the dictionary that accompanies survey data. Creating a dictionary takes 6 months if done manually.

The Health Lab is also conducting the Health Data Hub project whose aim is to encourage the use of and multiply the possibilities for the exploitation of health data, both in research and in public health, and in terms of new usages, especially those connected to the development of artificial intelligence methods. It will have a role in promoting innovation in the use of health data, and in particular will work with the 3IA institutes which are positioned in the health field, and more generally with the different initiatives sponsored by the Ministry of the Economy and the Ministry of Research in line with the national artificial intelligence strategy.

As for the DEPP, it has continued to invest in the processing and exploitation of big data in the context of pupil assessment, where interactive items generate huge amounts of data.

3.5 The Recommendations of the Official Statistics Authority (ASP)

The Authority issued a number of recommendations following each of the hearings that it carried out with official statistics producers and as part of labelling operations concerning statistical exploitations of administrative data sources.

The ministerial statistical office (MSO) for local authorities at the Directorate General for Local Authorities (DGCL)

After hearing the representatives of the Directorate General for Local Authorities (DGCL), the Authority noted that a great deal of progress had been made, in particular in 2017, in the statistical description of local authorities' management accounts and to ensure the comparability of the data: changeover to actual transactions, integration of subsidiary budgets annexes, consolidation of cross-flows between budgets and between local authorities. This work must be continued, especially with the consolidation of the work done on financial flows, the extension of the scope covered, the continued investment in "syndicates" and their spheres of competence. Beyond these works, the Authority invites the office to study the chain-linking of the rates of change to local authority expenditure and to improve, in collaboration with the DGFIP, the channels for transmitting initial budgets so that eventually there is only one channel.

The Authority also notes that the statistical office's positioning in relation to the requirements of the Code of Practice is satisfactory. Indeed, the office endeavours to comply with the rules, with, among other things, the creation of a dedicated page on the collectiviteslocales.gouv.fr website, the posting online of a provisional calendar for the MSO's publications, the transparency of the rules on dissemination under embargo, the creation of a methodology page and the rapid publication of data on the number of local government employees. On the other hand, the data on local authority accounts, currently published after a long delay in the Local Public Finance and Management Observatory (OFGL) report, could be disseminated within a shorter timeframe by the MSO. This is necessary to comply with Principle 13 "Timeliness and Punctuality" in the Code of Practice.

More fundamentally, the Authority stresses the need to make the statistical activity specific to the office more easily accessible.

However, the Authority considers that these improvements will not exhaust the demand for objective data in this field, which is legitimately high. Indeed, local authorities are important players, in terms of public investment and taxation, but also more generally for the production of public services. If official statistics are to fully accomplish their mission of making quality information available to anyone and everyone for the purposes of decision-making, research and public debate, the statistics concerning this information must be of a comparable level to what is produced by the other economic agents.

Admittedly, the dissatisfactions expressed are not limited to strictly statistical information. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of the DGFIP to provide, authority by authority, the management accounts and the register of local tax data (REI) and ensure this information is accessible under good conditions. Furthermore, the studies conducted by the MSO, in particular within the OFGL, take place downstream of the statistics per se.

And yet, as well as serving to describe economic or social changes in general, statistics are a key component in informing the public debate. These observations tally with certain reflections made by the CNIS as they emerge from its Territories Commission, whose medium-term opinion for 2019-2023 identifies as the main priority the provision of local indicators for public action, because "*localised statistical information is indispensable to the actors implementing public policies in local areas*". Although it observes that "*progress has been made in getting to know the amenities and services present in local areas as well as their accessibility*", the same opinion also states that it "*would like efforts to make information available on local*

authorities, such as local finances; local taxation or local public employment, to continue". The Authority also notes that, following the CNIS Bureau meeting of 24 October 2018, the CNIS adopted the principle of having a preliminary report drawn up, paying particular attention to the different dimensions relating to the quality of local authority statistics and to the context behind the ASP's request, before deciding to set up a working group.

In view of the issues involved and the fact that they also concern INSEE and several ministerial statistical offices, the Authority will carry out a review of this subject in a year's time, covering both the requests made specifically to the local authorities MSO and the implementation of the CNIS's orientations, to make sure that official statistics have organised to guarantee the effectiveness of these orientations, under the umbrella of statistical coordination. The corresponding examination will be structured according to the requirements of the Code of Practice, in particular the principles relating to statistical outputs, and first and foremost the principle of relevance which requires that statistics meet users' needs.

On the ministerial statistical office for Defence (SSP: Department of Statistics and Forward Studies)

Following the hearing of the head of the Agriculture ministerial statistical office, the Official Statistics Authority observes that the MSO of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has fully taken on board the statistical monitoring activities concerning fishing and aquaculture.

It notes with satisfaction that the backlog in the transmission of the aquaculture data to Eurostat has been made up, thanks to a joint collection of the data for the 2016 and 2017 campaigns and a clarification of the definition of samples and statistical output methodologies, it being noted that the results of these two campaigns would be sent to Eurostat by the end of 2018.

More generally, the Authority welcomes the statistical office's investment in developing a quality framework covering all its activities.

On the quality labelling of the Notaries/INSEE indices of existing housing stock prices in the provinces

The Authority unanimously grants the quality labelling of the quarterly indices for existing housing stock prices, raw and seasonally adjusted, for:

- all property (houses and apartments), apartments, houses in the regions Hauts-de-France (with details for Nord-Pas-de-Calais), Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (with details for Rhône-Alpes) and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (excluding Corsica);
- all property (houses and apartments), apartments, houses in the provinces;
- all property (houses and apartments), apartments, houses in Metropolitan France;
- all property (houses and apartments), apartments, houses in France (excluding Mayotte);
- apartments in urban areas with more than 10,000 inhabitants (all, town centres, suburbs), apartments in other urban areas and rural areas, as well as apartments in the cities of Lyon and Marseille;
- houses in the Lille conurbation.

The Authority requests that the High Council of French Notaries (CSN) implement the recommendations formulated in the labelling Committee's opinion of 15 March and insists in particular, with regard to dissemination, on the need to clearly identify the quality-labelled data in its publications.

The Authority also stresses the need to ensure that the scientific committee continues to play a role in validating the methodological choices, in particular the conditions of the planned merger between the Bien and Perval property databases.

The Authority has taken official note of the CSN's commitment to reduce the number of versions of these quarterly indices from four to two by the end of 2018.

The Authority invites the CSN to facilitate access to its data by researchers.

On the follow-up of the Authority's 2016 recommendations on the quality labelling of the INSEE monthly jobseekers statistics and employment statistics

The ASP commends the quality of the work done jointly by INSEE, the DARES and Pôle Emploi to understand the discrepancies observed, especially since 2009, between the trend in ILO unemployment and that of jobseekers registered with Pôle Emploi in category A. This work, carried out in response to a request made by the Authority on the occasion of the renewal of the quality labelling of the DEFM series (number of jobseekers registered at the end of the month), applies Principle 14 of the Statistics Code of Practice on Coherence and Compatibility, as statistics from different sources must be compared and reconciled.

Given the importance of statistics in this field, the Authority wishes to see this continued so that the outputs from it, once their robustness has been ensured, can be published.

It shares the interest in examining the possibilities for using the hashed NIR to carry out this type of matching and to improve the rate, as envisaged by INSEE.

Finally, it reiterates the necessity to develop appropriate work to understand why the volatility of the DEFM figures has recently increased.

On the quality labelling of the monthly series on spending on medicines reimbursed by the health insurance scheme dispensed by community pharmacies

The Official Statistics Authority approves, for five years, the quality labelling of the raw monthly data on spending on medicines dispensed by community pharmacies (known as "MediCAM" data) and reimbursed by the health insurance scheme, completed by the series on the amounts reimbursable and reimbursed at the five levels of the ATC (Anatomical, Therapeutic, Chemical) classification, all being understood as on the date of reimbursement.

The Authority duly notes that the CNAM has undertaken to implement, by autumn 2018, all the recommendations formulated by the Labelling Committee to facilitate access to and appropriation of these data by the public, in particular the documentation on the scope covered by the quality-labelled data.

The Authority has asked the CNAM to add series distinguishing between reimbursement rates (Chronic conditions (ALD)/non-ALD), to programme the seasonal adjustment of the series, starting with the higher levels of aggregation and to provide long-period series.

The Authority also invites the CNAM and the other official statistical service entities concerned to provide coherent data on the dispensing of drugs by community and hospital pharmacies.

Finally, the Official Statistics Authority has asked to be informed without delay of any reservations that the Court of Auditors may formulate concerning the medicines scope in the course of its annual examination for the certification of the CNAM's accounts.

On the quality labelling and renewal of the labelling of data series produced by the National family benefits fund (CNAF):

Following the hearing of the representatives of the la CNAF, the Official Statistics Authority approves, for five years, the quality labelling or the renewal of the labelling for the series listed in Annex 6.

In particular, the Official Statistics Authority grants or renews the quality labelling of the series taken from an extraction at a given month + two months (M+2), series published on the CNAF website, but it encourages the CNAF to continue its work on the data extracted at M+6, which are of better quality and which are considered as final.

When the conditions, in terms of dissemination, of this switchover from M+2 to M+6 have been clarified, the CNAF will inform the Authority so that these data can be quality labelled under conditions to be defined by the latter.

The Authority proposes to proceed in the same way for any series that may produced in the future concerning new statutory benefits.

The Authority duly notes the CNAF's commitment, as of the first quarter of 2019, to explicitly distinguish on its datacaf website the series that are quality-labelled from those that are not, but which provide information of interest to the public debate.

The Authority also notes that the CNAF has begun to make its data more widely available to researchers via the CASD and it encourages it to continue along these lines.

With regard to the two series concerning childcare provision for young children, "the number of places per type of childcare facility" and the "overall childcare coverage rate for young children", the Authority considers that official statistics should take an interest in this field.

However, as things stand, these series combine multiple sources, some of which are quality-labelled while others are not, and the assessment of the offer rests on many assumptions and conventions. In addition, the calculation of these series is the result of a joint process carried out under the aegis of the National Early Childhood Observatory (ONAPE), and therefore does not only involve the CNAF, the only producer of the other series of data whose quality labelling is being sought under the Authority's responsibility. These series therefore cannot be quality-labelled as part of this process. However, in view of their undisputed usefulness for the public debate, the Authority deems it necessary that the statistical coordination of the official statistical service examine whether these two series could, eventually, come within the scope of official statistics.

Concerning the series relating to the number of recipients of the basic constant-scale RSA (earned income supplement) corrected for seasonal variations, the Authority asks the CNAF to continue its technical examination, considering in particular that the hypothesis upon which the calculation of this series is based, namely an elasticity constant since 2013, whatever the level of the benefit, raises the problem of the choice of the reference year and its robustness over time.

3.6 Communication of the Authority

In 2018, the President, accompanied by the Rapporteur of the ASP, presented the 2017 report of the Official Statistics Authority to Mr Didier Migaud, President of the Court of Auditors, Mr Gilles Lara-Adélaïde, advisor on budgetary affairs at the Ministry of Defence, Mr Charles-Henri Weymuller, macro-economic and trade policy advisor at the Élysée Palace, Mr Bertrand Dumont, Assistant Private Secretary to the Minister of the Economy and Finance.

Discussions covered the following topics in particular:

- new sources of big data for official statistics,
- measurement of unemployment;
- the revision of the 2009 Decree laying down the missions of the Authority.

The President and the Rapporteur also met the members of the ESGAB (the European statistics authority) in Brussels on 13 September. The purpose of this meeting was to present the role and mission of the French Official Statistics Authority. The discussions that followed covered, among other things, European governance and the organisation of the new peer review.

The 2017 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 Authority's website <http://www.autorite-statistique-publique.fr/asp/>

Records of all decisions taken at the Authority's sessions are also accessible on its website.

4. Follow-up of recommendations in the 2017 Annual Report of the Authority

In its 2017 annual report, the Authority made a certain number of recommendations for implementation in 2018. It analyses to what extent and in what form these recommendations have been taken into consideration.

These recommendations were addressed to the following organisations:

- the Ministerial Statistical Office for Culture and Communication;
- the CépiDC, concerning the quality labelling of data from the national causes of death database,
- the State pensions department concerning the quality labelling of the statistics from the pensions database.

4.1 The Ministerial Statistical Office for Culture and Communication

Recommendation in the ASP 2017 annual report:

Following the hearing of the representatives of the Ministry for Culture and Communication, and with reference to the recommendations made by the Authority at its session in June 2015, the Authority applauds the progress made by the Culture and Communication ministerial statistical office both to come into line with the Code of Practice and to answer all the questions it raised at the last hearing, and thereby to meet the statistical needs in the field.

The Authority applauds the particular effort to define a detailed statistical programme in the area of cultural policies as well as to clarify its governance thanks to a two-tier coordination system (inter-ministerial committee and scientific committee) and the high degree of involvement of the General Secretariat.

The Authority encourages the Culture ministerial statistical office to continue in this direction, taking care in particular to guarantee access to its publications to all types of public in accordance with the general policy in place across the entire official statistical service.

Response of the Ministerial Statistical Office for Culture and Communication

The Culture and Communication ministerial statistical office points out that all the data included in its "key figures" publication can be freely downloaded from the Ministry of Culture website.

The current dissemination format of the publication (with a price intended only to partially cover the cost of printing and distribution) is, to the MSO's knowledge, the only one that enables it to continue working in accordance with its Ministry's policy orientations: that of defending the book chain (involving authors, publishers, distributors and, ultimately, outlets, bookshops in particular). Unless it finds other forms of partnership (as yet unidentified), the alignment with these policy orientations and therefore the association with a publisher (which is involved specifically in the issues of printing and distribution) mean that the office is currently forced to design exclusive editorial content (other than the figures and statistics, therefore) for the publication (as being in competition with the same content available on the internet free of charge would bring the partnership to an abrupt end).

The MSO is nonetheless fully aware of the issues raised by this type of dissemination and is willing to carry out a wide-ranging review of its practices. However, it wishes to take the time to carefully examine the consequences:

- Today, the "key figures" publication is one of its most widely identified outputs within government and beyond;
- What would it have to gain/lose if it were distributed free of charge via its website?
- How to fund and organise the printing and dissemination of fair publications (i.e. not only within the restricted circle of known contacts)? (A substantial number of readers seem to be attached to the possibility of consulting the hard copy of this publication.)

4.2 Renewal of the quality labelling of statistics from the pensions database of the State Pensions Department (SRE)

Recommendation in the ASP 2017 annual report:

Following the hearing of the representatives of the SRE, the Authority renews, unanimously, the labelling of the statistics based on the SRE's pensions database, for a period of 5 years.

*The Authority duly notes the commitments made by the SRE in accordance with the recommendations made by the Labelling Committee to remedy, by the publication of the *Abrégé statistique 2017* (due in June 2018), the remaining inadequacies concerning the documentation of the quality-labelled data, to improve the dissemination content and media as well as to extend the publication of the detailed characteristics of the stock of pensions as it is done with new pensions.*

The Authority invites the SRE to examine the conditions of making its databases available to researchers in the context of the implementation of the new digital law.

Response of the State pensions department (SRE)

All the key figures as well as the quality-labelled series were posted online on 30 June 2018 in line with the ASP's recommendation. Particular care was taken with the documentation, the clarification of the concepts and the content itself of the series disseminated.

In terms of documentation and clarification of the concepts, the scopes were precisely identified and harmonised. All the tables in one chapter now cover the same scope.

In the introductory text, it is explained that Mayotte pensions as well as temporary orphan's pensions and "crystallised pensions" (colonial veterans' pensions frozen at the date of independence of the colony in question) are systematically taken into account.

Alsace-Moselle pensions are no longer part of the scope: they are the subject of specific tables in a chapter on the other regimes managed by the SRE.

Direct pensions and survivor benefit pensions are clearly separated due to their intrinsically different natures. The same applies to civilian and military pensions.

It is clearly specified in all the table titles that the statistical unit is the pension and not the recipient of the pension.

An introduction page has been added and the navigation simplified to make it easier to reach the statistical data page.

This page contains the list of chapter headings and gives access to the tables and graphs.

The gross amounts at 31 December of the year in question are systematically quoted and the notion of a per annum amount, which was likely to lead to some ambiguity with the budgetary tables, is no longer in use.

A glossary has been added and the link appears in every chapter. It contains definitions of the main concepts that appear in the tables.

In terms of content, an attempt has been made to make it easier to read, and the pages present both the series over several years and graphs to clearly show trends.

Now prioritising time series analysis, most of the tables contain the series over the last 5 years. When it is not possible to display 5 years of data in a table, the graph still shows a 5-year period.

The indicators on the stock of pensions have been padded out. Therefore, for the most part, the tables in the chapter on the stock of pensions are the same as those on new pensions.

Following the recommendations of the Pensions Advisory Council (COR) in particular, the publication of retirement ages has now been completed with the theoretical average generational retirement age. A number of new indicators have been added; calculation of an age on the effective date of the initial pension for old-age retirements per generation, distinction of gendarmerie pensions from other military pensions in connection with their characteristics, pension mark-ups and mark-downs, new indicators on the special pension *allocation account* which tracks the budgetary aspects, systematic highlighting of the male/female breakdown.

The process of improving dissemination is ongoing and further improvements are still possible.

The next step will consist of improving the dissemination of data in reusable format (csv).

The need for statistical confidentiality and the risk of re-identification will have to be dealt with, in the light of the GDPR.

There are also plans to provide downloadable series.

The data offer will be able to be enriched, on themes such as the following:

- *life expectancy/life expectancy on retirement* along similar lines to what has been produced for *the average generational retirement age*
- enrichment of tables on military disability pensions and temporary disability allowances
- addition of generational indicators

The aim is also to disseminate key figures, with a provisional version in February and a final version in June, which would be a significant improvement.

4.3 Quality labelling of data from the national causes of death database produced by the Centre for epidemiology on the medical causes of death (CépiDc)

Recommendation in the ASP 2017 annual report:

Following the hearing of the Director of the CépiDc, the Authority grants, unanimously, the quality labelling of the data from the national causes of death database produced by the Centre for epidemiology on the medical causes of death (CépiDc), for a period of 5 years.

The Authority duly notes the commitments made by the CépiDc, for the parts that depend on it, to reduce the time until publication of these data online with the aim of bringing it down to 9 months, and to enrich the presentation and documentation of the results, in accordance with the recommendations made by the Labelling Committee. In view of the specific nature of these data, these items and more generally, the educational quality of the presentation for their dissemination, condition their ability to contribute to the transparency of public health debates and choices, which is their aim.

The Authority asks for the formalisation, within six months, of the procedures applicable to the recruitment of the Director of the CépiDc, in order to ensure that the principles of Regulation (EC) 2003/2009, amended, are implemented.

The Authority invites the CépiDc and INSEE to examine the governance to be set up to ensure the full integration of the latter into the coordination of the official statistical service, in particular in the field of quality.

The Authority emphasises the strategic nature of the dematerialisation of the transmission and the electronic certification of the medical causes of death, and consequently the unsatisfactory nature of the current situation in this area. It invites the CépiDc to continue and accelerate its work on this subject and to work with the other government departments concerned to find solutions so that that it can take maximum advantage of these possibilities.

Response of the Centre for epidemiology on the medical causes of death (CépiDc)

Formalisation of the applicable procedures:

According to the terms of recital no. 20 in Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics, which state "In order to enhance trust in European statistics, the national statistical authorities should in each Member State, as should the Community statistical authority within the Commission, enjoy professional independence and ensure impartiality and high quality in the production of European statistics [...]"

Inserm has noted in the same Regulation that the development, production and dissemination of European statistics are governed in particular by the principle of "professional independence", whose scope is defined as follows by the Regulation: *"statistics must be developed, produced and disseminated in an independent manner, particularly as regards the selection of techniques, definitions, methodologies and sources to be used, and the timing and content of all forms of dissemination, free from any pressures from political or interest groups or from Community or national authorities, without prejudice to institutional settings, such as Community or national institutional or budgetary provisions or definitions of statistical needs"*.

It is pointed out that the CépiDc was created and identified, according to the Decree on the organisation and functioning of Inserm (Decree no. 83-975, amended) and the Inserm reference base, as an internal service unit (US 10), meaning that its creation depends solely on Inserm.

Nevertheless, the missions entrusted to this unit are those defined by French and European law and regulations. Indeed, Inserm has been responsible for producing statistics on the medical causes of death for the last 50 years. These are data that are essential to the forming of public policy at national and international level. This mission is fixed by French law (Article L.2223-42 of the CGCT (Local Authorities Code)) and a EU Regulation (no. 328/2011). This is why Inserm has been recognised as participating in the French and European statistical system since 2017.

Concerning the management of the CépiDc, it is entrusted to an employee of Inserm covered by the provisions of Law no. 83-638, recently amended.

Accordingly, since the director of the unit is a civil servant, he has a duty to carry out his responsibilities with dignity, impartiality, integrity and honesty. In exercising his functions, he is bound by a duty of neutrality. He also has a responsibility to put an immediate end to or prevent situations where he finds himself or could find himself in a conflict of interests. In the event of any such conflict, Inserm will ensure the provisions of the law are applied to prevent it.

Finally, it should be recalled that, as far as expertise is concerned, Inserm has had a Scientific Expertise Charter since 2011, but that it also has a procedure on the declaration of potentially compromising connections and the prevention of conflicts between experts solicited.

The management of Inserm has therefore clearly identified the different issues aiming to guarantee transparency in the recruitment procedure and that the criteria of choice of that procedure include the capacity to produce quality statistics and conditions of independence with regard to any external contingencies.

Since 2016, the creation or renewal of Inserm service units has been supported by the Infrastructures division (created by Decision no. DAJ2016-183). Its role and its involvement in creation or renewal requests was clarified in Decision no. DAJ2016-187:

"When the question arises of creating or renewing a service unit with a scientific or technical purpose, the decision to create it is taken after obtaining the opinion of the Infrastructures division of the 'Thematic Institute' for Health Technologies, which acts in conjunction with the other competent thematic institutes, the Scientific Council or Inserm's specialised scientific committees".

In concrete terms, the procedure for creating or renewing services units is backed by the Inserm Support Mission, which after examining the relevant documents, visits the units and talks to the co-supervisory authorities so that, where appropriate, it can issue recommendations to help with the taking of the decision at the meeting of the Inserm Infrastructures committee chaired by the CEO of Inserm. This procedure is published on the Inserm evaluation site.

Integration into the coordination of the official statistical service, in particular in terms of quality

Following the Authority's recommendations, the following actions have been taken:

- The CépiDc met with the INSEE quality unit on 20 December 2017, which enabled it to gradually introduce a quality roadmap for the period 2018-2022, including in particular a commitment on the response to the recommendations of the Official Statistics Authority.
- The CépiDc met with the INSEE methodology department on 8 December 2017 to discuss production methods (coding in particular), data processing (imputation in the event of missing data, in particular),
- In accordance with the quality roadmap, two members of the CépiDc underwent quality training in 2018, and were able to raise the awareness of the CépiDc employees of the Quality approach.

A quality approach was launched in May 2018, among other things on the mapping of CépiDc's processes and the description of the process of producing data on the medical causes of death.

This roadmap will be reviewed at updated by the CépiDc steering committee.

An annual meeting has been set up between the CépiDc and the INSEE quality unit to follow up the implementation of the action plan. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 November 2018.

Furthermore, as the CépiDc-INSEE agreement is coming to an end, a review of the respective commitments is planned concerning processing to add components on governance, including regular steering committee meetings on the agreement and integration into INSEE's quality coordination system. A meeting is in the course of being organised on this subject.

Dematerialisation of the transmission of death certificates

The growth of dematerialised certification of deaths is highly dependent on the different authorities and players involved in the process. These include:

- Hospital doctors, for whom the CépiDc, based on the Inserm's information system department, has prioritised the development of connectors to hospital information systems, with the aim of limiting the copying of background information (such as the civil status information on deceased patients) at the time of certification.
- General practitioners, for whom total dematerialisation of the certificate will allow certification when out of their surgery. A successful pilot study involving the different ministries concerned (Prime Minister, Interior, Justice, Health) has been run in 6 municipalities in France, but the decision to adopt complete dematerialisation is awaiting an interministerial consultation.
- Municipalities, which will have to connect to a platform to get the information necessary to register a death and draw up the certificates. To date, in the absence of a decision on complete dematerialisation, no national initiative can be undertaken with them.
- Undertakers and Prefectures, which will also have to dematerialise their practices and use a digital register of approved operators.

It should be noted that in all these actions, incentives or communication campaigns on the part of:

- the Directorate General for Healthcare (DGOS) for hospitals and their staff,
 - the National Health Insurance Administration (CNAM), through medical sales representatives in contact with GPs, or reimbursements of the certification dependent on the use of the electronic certification application,
 - the Regional Health Agencies (ARSS), in particular through performance indicators,
- would be likely to accelerate the deployment of the application.

All these elements and the search for levers to activate them are currently under consideration and the subject of discussions between Inserm, the Directorate General for Health (DGS) and Santé Publique France.

5. Annexes

Annexe 1 : Recipients of the report

"This report is submitted to Parliament and made public" (Article 2 of the Decree of 3 March 2009 on the Official Statistics Authority)

As each year since 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
 - Prime Minister
 - Minister for the Economy and Finance
 - Minister for Public Action and Accounts
 - President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council
- Ministries responsible for the Ministerial Statistical Offices
 - *to the major French State bodies*
 - 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 : Biography of the new members joining the ASP in 2018

Jean-Éric SCHOETTL

Ecole Polytechnique 1967

Former Director of the Secretariat General of the Government,

Former Secretary General of the Constitutional Council,

Former Deputy President of the Interior Section of the Council of State

Honorary Councillor of State

Annexe 3 : Decree n° 2018-800 of 20 September 2018 amending Decree n° 2009-250 of 3 March 2009 on the Official Statistics Authority

Recipients: *members of the Official Statistics Authority, producers of official statistics*

Subject: *modifications of the powers of the Official Statistics Authority*

Entry into force: *the text enters into force the day after its publication.*

Notice: *the decree modifies the powers of the Official Statistics Authority by stipulating the terms of application of the European Statistics Code of Practice to the Official Statistical Service in terms of compliance with said code, dissemination of statistical publications and issuing an opinion on the occasion of the appointment of the Director General of INSEE and certain heads of Ministerial Statistical Offices.*

References: *the present Decree and the provisions of Decree n°2009 of 3 March 2009 on the Official Statistics Authority, which it amends, may be consulted in the amended wording on the Légifrance website (<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr>).*

The Prime Minister,

Further to a report by the Minister for the Economy and Finance,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) n° 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/759 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015;

Having regard to Law no. 51-711 of 7 June 1951 on legal obligation, coordination and confidentiality in the field of statistics, notably its Article 1;

Having regard to Decree n° 85-779 of 24 July 1985, amended, implementing Article 25 of Law n°84-16 of 11 January 1984 establishing the list of higher-ranking positions to which appointments are left to the decision of the government;

Having regard to Decree no. 2009-250 of 3 March 2009, amended, on the Official Statistics Authority

Having regard to Decree n° 2016-663 of 24 May 2016 creating a hearings committee for the appointment of directors in the central government administration;

The Council of State (Finance Section) in its extended format,

Decrees:

Article 1

The abovementioned Decree of 3 March 2009 is amended as follows:

1° In Article 1:

a) Point 1° is replaced by the following provisions:

“1° Issues any opinion it deems useful to guarantee compliance with the principle of professional independence in the design, production and dissemination of official statistics, and with the principles of objectivity, impartiality, relevance and quality of the data produced, and to ensure compliance by the official statistical service with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice provided by Article 2 of Regulation (EC) n° 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009”

b) A point 1°a worded as follows is inserted after 1°:

“1° a Issues any opinion it deems useful to ensure that the arrangements for the dissemination of the publications of the official statistical service comply with the principles of neutral and equal treatment of users, as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) n° 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 referred to in 1°; it ensures notably that there is a dissemination that is separate and distinct from any ministerial communication, pursuant to Principle 1 of the European Statistics Code of Practice provided by Article 2 of this Regulation

b) A point 3°a worded as follows is inserted after 3°:

“3°a Issues an opinion on the occasion of the appointment of the Director General of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies and of those of the heads of the Ministerial Statistical Offices who are directors of the central government administration, for the attention of the hearings committee set up pursuant to Decree n°2016-663 of 24 May 2016 creating a hearings committee for the appointment of central government administration directors. This opinions concerns the competencies of the persons being considered for appointment in light of the principle of professional independence set down in the European Statistics Code of Practice provided in Article 2 of European Regulation (EC) n° 223/2009 of 11 March 2009. The outcome of the opinion is published in the Official Journal at the same times as the deed of appointment.”

d) In point 5°, the words: “in 1°” are replaced by the words: “In 1° and 1°a”;

2° In the first paragraph of Article 2, the words: “in 1° and 5°” are replaced by the words: “In 1°, 1°a and 5°”;

Article 2

The Minister for the Economy and Finance is responsible for execution of this decree which will be published in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

Issued on 20 September 2018.

By the Prime Minister:
Edouard Philippe

Minister for the Economy and Finance
Bruno LE MAIRE

Annexe 4 : Opinion of 10 April 2018 of the Official Statistics Authority relating to the quality labelling of the quarterly statistics on house prices in the provinces

Having regard to the letter of 29 August 2017 from the High Council for the Notarial Profession;
Having regard to the opinion of the Quality Labelling Committee of 15 March 2018;
Having regard to the minutes of the meeting of the Official Statistics Authority of 28 March 2018, as approved,

the Authority unanimously approves the quality labelling of the series of raw, deseasonalised quarterly indices of prices for existing homes, for a period of five years;

- for all homes (houses and apartments), for apartments and for houses in the Hauts-de-France region (with the detail for Nord-Pas-de-Calais), in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (with detail for Rhône-Alpes) and in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (excluding Corsica);
- for all homes (houses and apartments), for apartments and for houses in the provinces;
- for all homes (houses and apartments), for apartments and for houses in Metropolitan France;
- for all homes (houses and apartments), for apartments and for houses in France (excluding Mayotte);
- for apartments in conurbations of over 10,000 inhabitants (overall, town centres, suburbs), apartments in other conurbations and in rural areas, and apartments in the cities of Lyon and Marseille;
- for houses in the conurbation of Lille.

The Authority asks the High Council for the Notarial Profession to implement the recommendations made in the opinion of the Quality Labelling Committee of 15 March 2018 and insists, among other things, on the necessity of identifying the data that has received quality labelling when disseminating its publications.

The Authority also emphasises the need to maintain the role of the Scientific Council in validating methodological choices, and in particular the conditions for the merger being considered between the Bien and Perval databases;

The Authority has noted the undertaking given by the High Council for the Notarial Profession to reduce the number of versions of these quarterly indices from four to two a year by the end of 2018.

The Authority calls upon the High Council for the Notarial Profession to facilitate access to its data for researchers.

This opinion will be transmitted to the High Council for the Notarial Profession. It will be published in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

Annexe 5 : Opinion of 20 September 2018 of the Official Statistics Authority relating to the raw monthly data on medication expenditure produced by the National Health Insurance Administration (CNAM).

Having regard to the letter of 6 June 2018 from the Director for Strategy, Studies and Statistics of the CNAM;
Having regard to the opinion of the Official Statistics Quality Labelling Committee dated 13 June 2018;
Having regard to the minutes of the meeting of the Official Statistics Authority of 20 June 2018, as approved,

The Official Statistics Authority approves the quality labelling for five years of the raw monthly data on expenditure on medication delivered by high-street pharmacies (“MediCAM” data) and reimbursed by health insurance, completed by the series of reimbursable and reimbursed amounts for the five levels of the ATC classification (Anatomic-Therapeutic-Chemical), with all figures being for the date of reimbursement.

This opinion is issued with the following recommendations:

1. The Authority notes that the CNAM has given an undertaking to implement, by Autumn 2018, all the recommendations made by the Quality Labelling Committee to facilitate access to and ownership of this data by the public, in particular the documentation on the scope covered by the quality-labelled statistics.
2. The Authority asks the CNAM to add series making a distinction between the reimbursement rates (long-term illness or not), to schedule the deseasonalisation of its series, beginning with the higher levels of aggregation, and to provide long series.
3. The Authority also calls upon the CNAM and the other relevant entities of the official statistical service to provide coherent data on the delivery of medications by high-street and hospital pharmacies.
4. Finally, the Official Statistics Authority asks to be informed promptly of any reservation that might be expressed by the Court of Audit on the subject of medication, within the framework of its annual examination for the purpose of certifying the accounts of the CNAM. This opinion will be transmitted for information to the Director general of the CNAM and to the Director of Strategy, Studies and Statistics of the CNAM. It will be mentioned in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

Annexe 6 : Opinion of 8 November 2018 of the Official Statistics Authority on the series of data produced by the National Family Benefits Fund (CNAF)

Having regard to the letter of 12 July 2018 from the Director General of the CNAF;
Having regard to the opinion of the Official Statistics Quality Labelling Committee dated 4 October 2018;
Having regard to the minutes of the meeting of the Official Statistics Authority of 17 October 2018, as approved,

The Official Statistics Authority approves the quality labelling for five years of the series of data produced by the CNAF and listed in the appendix to this opinion.

This opinion is issued with the following recommendations:

1- In particular, the Official Statistics Authority grants quality labelling or the renewal of quality labelling of the series taken from data extraction two months after the given month (m+2), which series are published on the CNAF website, but encourages the CNAF to pursue its work on the data extracted at m+6, which offer better quality and are considered as definitive.

Once the strategy has been clarified for the switch from the m+2 to m+6 extractions in terms of dissemination, the Authority calls upon the CNAF to inform it to this effect so that this data can then be quality labelled in the conditions it defined.

2- The Authority proposed to proceed in the same way for any series that might be produced in the future on new benefits.

3- The Authority notes the undertaking given by the CNAF, as of Q1 2019, to make a distinction on its CAFDATA website between those series that have quality labelling and those that do not, which does not prevent it from maintaining the visibility of the series without quality labelling that can still provide interesting information for public debate.

4- The Authority also notes that the CAF has given an undertaking to make its data more widely available to researchers via the CASD and encourages it to pursue its efforts to this effect.

This opinion will be transmitted for information to the Director General of the CNAF and to the Director of Statistics, Studies and Research of the CNAF

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

Annex

List of the series (extraction from the information system in m+2)

Overview of beneficiaries and benefits

Beneficiary households receiving at least one official benefit and count of beneficiary households per benefit - national level

Beneficiary households receiving at least one official benefit - by CAF

Population of beneficiary households receiving at least one benefit from the family branch - by CAF

Population covered by the CAFs - national level

Population covered by at least one benefit - by municipality

Characteristics of beneficiary households - national level

Breakdown of beneficiaries by age - national level

Breakdown of beneficiaries by age - by CAF

Count and breakdown of beneficiary households by age of the responsible person - by municipality

Breakdown of children covered by at least one CAT benefit - by age group, by municipality

Breakdown of children covered by at least one CAT benefit - by age group, by EPCI

Breakdown of beneficiary households by type of family - national level

Breakdown of beneficiary households by type of family - by CAF

Breakdown of beneficiary households by type of family - by municipality
Breakdown of beneficiary households by type of family - by EPCI
Financial results on an established entitlements basis by type of benefit and by CAF
Expenditure of all family and social benefits regimes managed by the family branch
History of expenditure on all family and social benefits regimes managed by the family branch

Early Childhood

Young child benefit (PAJE) - by CAF
Beneficiary households receiving the young child benefit (PAJE) - by municipality
Beneficiary households receiving the birth or adoption bonus of the PAJE - by CAF
PAJE basic benefit- by CAF
PAJE free choice of activity top-up allowance - by CAF
Shared child education benefit - by CAF
Child-minding top-up allowance (PAJE) - by CAF
Welfare expenditure on young child benefit - by CAF
Breakdown by municipality of establishments receiving young children beneficiaries of a CAF benefit and number of places on offer

Childhood and Youth

Beneficiary households receiving a childhood and youth benefit (AF, CF, ASF, AEEH and ARS) - by municipality
Family benefits (AF) - per CAF
Beneficiary households receiving family benefits (AF) - by municipality
Family top-up benefit (CF) - by CAF
Family support benefit (ASF) - by CAF
Start-of-school-year benefit (ARS) - by CAF
Number of children covered by the start-of-school-year benefit (ARS) - by CAF
Number of children covered by the start-of-school-year benefit (ARS) - by municipality
Disabled child education benefit (AEEH) - by CAF
Number of children covered by the disabled child education benefit (AEEH) - by municipality
Breakdown by municipality of homes for young workers receiving a CAF benefit and number of beds
Beneficiary households receiving a housing benefit - by CAF
Beneficiary households receiving a housing benefit in December by municipality
Population covered by a housing benefit - by CAF
Population covered by a personal housing benefit in December - by municipality
Family housing benefit (ALF) - by CAF
Personal housing benefit (APL) - by CAF
Social housing benefit (ALS) - by CAF

Solidarity and Integration

Active solidarity income (RSA) - national level
Active solidarity income (RSA) - by CAF
Beneficiary households receiving active solidarity income (RSA) - by municipality
Population covered by the active solidarity income (RSA) - national level
Population covered by the active solidarity income in December - by municipality
Beneficiary households receiving the activity bonus (PPA) - national level
Beneficiary households covered by the activity bonus (PPA) - CAF level
Beneficiary households receiving the activity bonus (PPA) - by municipality
Population covered by the activity bonus (PPA) - CAF level
Disabled adult benefit (AAH) - by CAF
Beneficiaries of the disabled adult benefit during the month of December - by municipality
Solidarity income (RSO) - by CAF
Beneficiary households receiving the solidarity income (RSO) - by municipality in overseas territories

Annexe 7 : 2018 review of the official statistics programme by the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS)

2018 was a particular year in the life of the CNIS, being characterised by the work to prepare the Medium-Term Plan for 2019-2023 which will guide its activities over the coming 2 years.

This work was backed on the one hand by a review of the previous medium-term period and also, and above all, by an evaluation of users' needs. In addition to a public consultation that was conducted via the CNIS website, this evaluation also drew on the conclusions of the two meetings or conferences organised on certain topical themes and the challenges they pose for official statistics:

- the development of the digital economy, on 7 March 2018
- new data sources, on 2 July 2018

A meeting had already been organised in July 2017 on the theme of discrimination and the debates on that occasion were also taken into account in the opinion of this medium-term period.

Finally, a working group met in the course of 2018 to draw up the French version of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The report from this group was submitted in the summer and presented to a large audience on 15 October. The transversal dimension of this work conducted within the 3 sub-groups and the recommendations they made also guided the opinions produced in this medium-term review.

A specific and considerable effort was made on consultation and extended debates in the course of 2018, in line with the purpose of the CNIS and its main mission.

The result of this consultation took the form of 83 opinions, including 8 general opinions, providing a framework for the medium term as a whole, addressing transversal themes and methods, from which the opinions of the 7 commissions are largely derived.

These 8 general opinions are grouped together in 3 themed areas (sustainable development, digital technologies and territories) and one area of methods and dissemination.

The sustainable development theme follows on directly from the work of the working group on the French version of the SDGs. The digital technologies theme echoes the conclusions of the two conferences organised on these subjects. As for the territories theme, it drew great attention in the public consultation, with the questions raised varying from the strictly local level to that of international comparisons.

While all the commission meetings of the autumn were dedicated to finalising the proposals for the medium-term opinions to be presented and voted on at our plenary meeting of 31 January 2019, those held in the spring were also an opportunity to review various issues that will be developed in the themed review.

The review of the activities of the CNIS for 2018 is structured as follows:

- first, a review in relation to the 6 general orientations selected in 2017 and, more generally, in the Medium-Term Plan for 2014-2018 guiding the action of the CNIS,
- secondly, a review in light of the work conducted within the 7 themed commissions, the operational bodies for the consultation, in four themed areas:

- the social domain,
- the economic and financial domain,
- sustainable development,
- territories.

1 - General review

- *The CNIS contributes to facilitating access to official statistical data.*

On this first orientation, the year 2018 was marked by the implementation of the Digital Republic Law no. 2016-1321 of 7 October 2016.

The report by the CNIS working group, chaired by Pierre-Yves Geoffard and Antoine Bozio, was handed in in March

2017 and made recommendations aiming to improve the exploitation of administrative data for scientific research purposes. The first of these recommendation consists in developing a summary vade mecum for administrations and researchers, setting out the state of the applicable law and presenting the different access procedures and the legal remedies available to researchers wishing to challenge a decision to refuse access.

This vade mecum drawn up in collaboration with the Ministry for Research and Higher Education is currently being finalised and should be available in early 2019.

The CNIS also notes with interest the recent changes made to the access procedures implemented by the Statistical Confidentiality Committee. In a context of a marked rise in demand for access to micro-data, showing an increased interest in statistical and fiscal sources, the Committee has undertaken streamlining of the access procedures for researchers, allowing access to all the time series of a source from the first request. In addition to this, the production and research files (FPR) for INSEE household surveys, files of individual survey data with a lower risk of re-identification than the initial source, have been disseminated in accordance with a new procedure since October 2018, consisting in an initial presentation of the applicant in front of the Confidentiality Committee to obtain a permanent authorisation to access all the FPR. Researchers continue to have access to these files via the Quêtelet network. Finally, work is being conducted to switch over to electronic procedures, for implementation in 2019.

More generally, access to official statistics data was the theme of the Plenary Meeting of the CNIS held on 31 January last. The diversity and quality of the range of publications by the Official Statistical Service was emphasised, as was the progress achieved in the move towards the more advanced open data tools, such as web services. Highly significant advances were noted in access to data by researchers, notably the great progress made in the construction of matched databases combining survey data and administrative data. The significant contribution of the CBIS and the Statistical Confidentiality Committee to opening up data was also underscored.

- ***Informing international comparisons***

The aim of this orientation is to enhance the relevance of international comparisons via greater comparability of the data. This is also one of the priorities in the INSEE strategic project. The comparability of data is indeed a key analysis issue, particularly in terms of benchmarking. Several INSEE 2025 actions make reference to it, including by developing international comparisons in publications. In this respect, mention can be made of the recent digital publication by INSEE with Eurostat on the European economy, containing interactive graphics providing an overview of economic trends in the European Union since 2000.

The CNIS also noted that the work underway within the ESSC on the Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics - FRIBS and Integrated European Social Statistics - IESS) aims to enhance data comparability by harmonising the data and sharing common methods, services and international standards.

The difficulties of implementation should not be underestimated, however. Despite increased harmonisation via the inputs, international comparisons are rendered difficult by differences in the questionnaire or in implementation of the collection process.

Vigilance is therefore still required on this subject which came up several times in the consultations to prepare the future Medium term Plan 2019-2023 of the CNIS: a general opinion will address this question which will therefore be the focus of particular follow-up in coming years.

- ***Enabling citizens to understand and use data from official statistics***

In a context where very diverse data originate from information systems that are not totally integrated, another expectation is that citizens be enabled to comprehend and use official statistics.

In its themed commissions, the CNIS is striving to have educational presentations prepared of the existing statistical information systems on the theme in question. These presentation materials are available online, along with videos since 2018. The organisation of a greater number of seminars and conferences than in the past on topical subjects for official statistics also aims to facilitate access to statistical subjects for non-experts. Four-page summary publications, the CNIS chronicles, are systematically drafted after these events.

The Official Statistical Service, meanwhile, is developing more modern, interactive publication products to bring statistics to the broadest possible audience.

The conference on new data sources organised on 2 July 2018, which attracted over 150 participants, clarified what these “new sources” are, making a distinction between those that come from private-sector actors as a by-product of their activity (mobile telephones, social media, information from the collaborative economy, etc.) also known as big data, and those sources which, without being genuinely new, come from the perfecting, opening up and matching of data from public management systems and retain the characteristics of data of administrative origin.

By their volume and the way they are constituted, these new sources require new skills and methods on the part of the official statistical service in order to process them. They are an incentive for the service to define its position as regards

private operators, by consolidating its ability to address fundamental questions on economic and social issues and to implement appropriate observation systems.

The big data that is produced in large volumes and almost instantaneously can provide a complement to survey data or produce indicators in much shorter timescales than the traditional sources, after a case-by-case appraisal of these potential contributions.

This was illustrated by the studies (to various degrees of maturity) presented on the occasion of the conference. Analyses of online job vacancy advertisements can serve as a complement to the data collected via surveys. Satellite data can provide an evaluation of the physical occupation and use of land. Transaction or scanner data constitute an alternative to traditional price surveys. Mobile telephone data can provide information on the population that is present at a given moment in time and in a given territory, something that is difficult to measure via traditional sources.

Finally, compromises have to be found between quality, speed of publication and level of detail, with official statistics continuing to give priority to the first of these three aspects. Official statistics must also do everything it can to maintain the confidence of respondents in the confidentiality of the data they provide (respect for the privacy of individuals and for business confidentiality for companies).

- ***Obtaining indicators in addition to gross domestic product.***

There has been a contribution to this objective this year via the work and the submission in June 2018 of the report by the CNIS working group in charge of defining the French version of the sustainable development indicators.

Monitoring of sustainable development indicators must go hand in hand with tracking of growth as measured by trends in GDP to ensure that growth is sustainable, meaning that it does not use up the resources of the planet and that it takes account of the issue of inequalities in the world.

For this group, the aim was to determine around one hundred indicators, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as approved in 2015, applicable since 1st January 2019 and monitored by the UN via 232 indicators, in order to track the progress of French policies to achieve these goals, while providing a fit with the UN goals.

The report presents 98 indicators used for tracking French sustainable development strategies, and their value.

This list constitutes a dashboard of national SDG strategies. This dashboard is set to evolve according to the SDG “roadmap” that is due to be published in June 2019, providing an exhaustive and well-ordered presentation of French government policies and strategies.

In addition to the dashboard, the report also includes recommendations intended for data producers, with the aim of enhancing knowledge in a number of areas and ensuring the best possible use of this dashboard.

Some of the recommendations per goal are precious for official statistics and have been included in several proposals for commission opinions for the next medium-term period.

Some of the general recommendations have also been included in the themes of the general opinions. Such is the case of improving the legibility and provision of the statistics and the production of regional indicators.

Finally, there is a specific general opinion on the SDG indicators.

- ***Enhanced knowledge of local expenditure is a key expectation among users***

As regards this objective, a review of the setting up and work of the Observatory of Local Government Finances and Management (OFGL) was provided on the occasion of the Territories Commission.

The Observatory of Local Government Finances and Management (OFGL) was created in March 2017 and is an offshoot of the Local Finances Committee, a body for consultation between the State and representatives of the local authorities.

Two studies have already been published by the OFGL, one on local taxation relief, rebates and exemptions and the other on equipment grants paid between local authorities.

A project for a platform is currently being studied at the OFGL, the purpose of which would be to use data from the DGFIP, which is to say the local authority management accounts, along with local taxation data, to order to enable easier comparisons between a given local authority and a benchmark group.

Mention should also be made in this section of the request sent to the CNIS by the Official Statistics Authority to work together on a global review of the quality of statistics pertaining to local authorities. A preliminary report will be prepared by the CNIS, focusing more particularly on the different dimensions of this subject and the background to the request, before considering whether to set up a working group.

- ***Progress in the measurement of the digital economy***

This issue was the subject of a conference organised by the CNIS and entitled “The digital economy: key issues for official statistics”, held on 7 March 2018.

The conference drew 220 participants, over half of whom were users of statistics, and furthered the ongoing work in the

course of three sessions:

- The first about “Measurement of growth in a digital economy”,
- The second on “Corporate statistics and markets in the digital era”,

And finally, the third about “Impacts of digital technology on labour market statistics”:

Ultimately, the huge number of questions that were raised constitute possible ways forward for official statistics, and one point that might be highlighted is that digital technologies require collection tools to be adapted, alongside traditional practices. They also require that we check that the concepts or classifications used by statisticians are still relevant in a digital economy.

Efforts are already underway, notably within the framework of the Law for a Digital Republic which allows statisticians access to private data sources: the applications are sometimes still experimental and concern, among others, scanner data, mobility data via smartphones, and bank data. It should be remembered that transmission of such data for official statistics purposes may be rendered mandatory, further to an opinion from the CNIS (this is the case of scanner data).

These experiments should be continued. They will be facilitated by the creation of the SSP-Lab entity within INSEE, dedicated to methodological innovations.

Against this backdrop of multiplication of such data, official statistics must reflect on its position in terms of quality and as a regulatory body in the face of statistics produced by private actors.

2 -Themed review of proceedings in commissions and working groups proceedings

2 -1. Progress and expectations in the social domain

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

A) Employment and disability

The themes of employment and disability were addressed together at a joint meeting of the “Employment, Qualification and Earned Income” and “Public services and Services for the Public” commissions on the employment of disabled people and the statistical sources that can be used to treat this subject, through three presentations by the DARES, the DREES and the DGAFP.

The presentations all highlighted the following points:

- the diversity and number of sources that exist to describe the employment of disabled people.
- the complementary fit between the fields covered by the main producers (DARES, DREES and DGAFP).
- and also the complementary approaches employed: from the points of view of the employers, of the medical-social centres and of the individuals themselves.

The CNIS expressed its regret that the various data sources are rarely combined and encouraged users to develop such approaches.

B) Inadequate housing

The question of inadequate housing and, more generally, of the future of the information system on housing, was addressed by the “Demographics and Social Issues” commission.

After a review of the progress made in the information system on this subject since the recommendations of the CNIS working group of 1993-1996 on inadequate housing, future prospects in this domain were presented by the main producers, including the following main points:

- A new edition of the Housing Survey is scheduled in 2020 and will be headed by the SDES (Sustainable development MSO). The survey should then be repeated regularly. .
- The restructuring of the SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) Survey is in preparation for 2020, with a revision of the questionnaire, a three-yearly European module on housing and an indicator on poverty in living conditions.
- A repeat of the Homelessness Survey is not scheduled to date.

Among other issues, a presentation by the National Observatory of Poverty and Social Exclusion (ONPES) around its recent “Inadequate housing and those living in it” report, focusing on marginal and inadequate housing situations, highlighted the complexity of these forms of housing that include mobile units used as main residences and makeshift homes, which is to say types of housing that are on the borderline between ordinary housing and homelessness.

After the working session on this theme of housing, the CNIS made the following recommendations:

- After announcing a new edition of the Housing Survey for 2020, it called for the operation to be repeated at regular intervals.
- It called for a new edition of the “Homelessness” Survey that covers a scope that is not observed by the other sources of official statistics.

C) Follow-up of the Thélot Report on family breakdowns

The recommendations of the report of the working group chaired by Claude Thélot, entitled “Family breakdown and its consequences: 30 recommendations to improve knowledge thereof”, which was published in 2016, are being followed-up by a working group of producers of data on this subject (CNAF, DARES, DEPP, DREES, INED, INSEE, Justice MSO, Sustainable development MSO).

Follow-up of the recommendations was presented at the last meeting of the Demographics Commission. A memo is available on the subject on the CNIS website (Demographics Commission page). Among the measures introduced further to the report, one very important step forward should be mentioned: a modification of the housing sheet in the annual census survey as of 2018 which should allow the application of the aggregate classification of types of family recommended by the CNIS report. As of 2020, it will therefore be possible to present the census results according to this classification.

As a general rule, the principle of the creation of working groups to follow up the recommendations of CNIS reports is one that should be applied more systematically.

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

The work of the Enterprises and Market Strategies Commission focused on the INSEE-managed information system for groups of companies, the “LIFI” (Financial Links) system. This system was introduced in 1980 further to a recommendation by the CNIS, is now in its third version and is based mainly on administrative data.

The system plays a central role in corporate statistics since the latter has taken account of the notion of a group for preparing its annual structural statistics. The LIFI system provides the Statistical Business Register (SIRUS) with data on groups and their contours, which then represent the basic source for profiling and calculating the category of the enterprise for the purposes of the 2008 Law on Modernisation of the Economy. The LIFI system is also closely linked in to the EuroGroups register (EGR), providing it with the data on the international groups present in France and receiving data from it on the foreign subsidiaries of these groups.

The CNIS encourages INSEE to pursue its involvement in European works and calls upon it to make use of this information on groups to inform current debate around the globalisation of the French economy.

The Financial System and Financing of the Economy Commission focused on the new aspects of the 2014 base of the national accounting system in the domain of financial flows. It looked more particularly into the revisions made to transactions between France and the rest of the world and the estimates of flows of income from property, which were presented by INSEE, and into the new estimates of the balance of payments, presented by the Banque de France.

The methodological adjustments made on the occasion of the change of base were conducted in consultation between INSEE and the Banque de France and incorporated simultaneously into the national accounts and the balance of payments.

The CNIS emphasises the step forward constituted by the estimation of dividend levels using all the available sources, notably fiscal sources, in line with the recommendation of the CNIS working group in July 2015 on the cost of capital.

2-3. Progress and expectations on the environment and sustainable development (“Environment and Sustainable Development” Commission)

In 2018, the “Environment and Sustainable Development” Commission looked into “energy statistics and data”, and notably into the energy accounts on the one hand, and local energy data on the other.

The need for a monetary energy balance in addition to the physical balance has increased in recent years, with soaring oil prices and the importance taken by the question of the energy transition in public debate. Hence the creation of an energy satellite account to highlight the specific features of a particular domain while fitting in with the national accounting framework.

The results of the monetary balances are available for electricity and coal over the period 2001-2016 and are currently being prepared for natural gas and oil.

The provision of local energy consumption data, meanwhile, is currently governed by the Energy Transition Law got Green Growth (LTECV) of 2015. The scope of the energy forms that are covered has been extended to include petroleum products and heating networks. The implementing texts were the subject of detailed consultation and provide the detail of the data and the arrangements for making them available on an increasingly detailed grid scale: from 2019, data collection at the individual building level will be rolled out gradually.

These data are of great importance for developing energy strategies for local territories. A new, more comprehensive system for access to energy data integrated into the national data.gouv.fr platform will be implemented gradually. This will go hand in hand with the creation of a “core” toolbox to guide local authorities as they prepare their Climate-Air-Energy Plan.

The CNIS stresses the progress that these systems represent. It does regret, however, aside from the expenditure data and within the framework of energy transition debates, that there are no public data on uses and investment for each of the types of energy in the balance and it therefore encourages work to be continued to that effect.

2-4. Progress and expectations in territorial aspects (“Territories” Commission)

It is on the preparation of the new generation of statistical territorial boundaries that the work of the Commission focused in 2018.

Two categories of methods can be used to determine the zoning for studies:

- Morphological methods are used for urban units and the density grid. They provide a detailed description of the variables (buildings, population, employment) that characterise the territory.
- Functional methods are used for urban areas, employment zones and living zones, and define zones (home-work) that are coherent in their economic organisation.

The purpose of the restructuring of the territorial zones is to modify the definition of the statistical breakdowns of French territory to adapt them to users’ needs while ensuring that they fit with the European and international definitions. This restructuring is scheduled over three years (2018 to 2021).

This restructuring work is still at an exploratory stage and as the two approaches (morphological and functional) are complementary with each other, the CNIS requests that prior to choices being made for the methods and elaboration of the zoning, their purpose should be clearly specified, taking account of the needs expressed by users according to their different uses, notably in terms of comparability over time. It also recommends that the international methods should be studied in more detail.

Annexe 8 : Principles of the European Statistics Code of Good Practice adopted by the European Statistical System Committee on 16 November 2017

**For the National Statistical Authorities
and Eurostat (EU statistical authority)**

**Adopted by the
European Statistical System Committee**

16 November 2017

Eurostat

**European
Statistical
System**

Preamble

The European Statistics Code of Practice

The European Statistics Code of Practice is the cornerstone of the common quality framework of the European Statistical System. It is a self-regulatory instrument and is based on 16 Principles covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical outputs. A set of indicators of best practices and standards for each of the Principles provides guidance and reference for reviewing the implementation of the Code of Practice, increasing transparency within the European Statistical System.

Statistical authorities, comprising the European Union Statistical Authority (Eurostat), the National Statistical Institutes and other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics, commit themselves to adhere to the Code of Practice

An independent Advisory Board, the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board¹⁹ (ESGAB, the Board) provides an overview of the European Statistical System as regards the implementation of the Code of Practice. The Board analyses the implementation of the Code of Practice by the European Union Statistical Authority (Eurostat) and the European Statistical System as a whole every year; and advises on appropriate measures to facilitate the implementation of the Code of Practice, on its communication to users and data providers as well as on its possible updates.

This 2017 edition is the second revision of the Code of Practice, originally adopted in 2005. It aims at reflecting the latest changes and innovations in the development, production and dissemination of official statistics in the European Statistical System and beyond, such as emerging new data sources, use of new technologies, modernisation of the legal framework, and the results of the peer reviews on the implementation of the Code of Practice.

A glossary explaining the main terms used in the Code of Practice is available online at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/overview>.

The Common Quality Framework of the European Statistical System

The common quality framework of the European Statistical System is composed of the European Statistics Code of Practice, the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System and the general quality management principles (such as continuous interaction with users, commitment of leadership, partnership, staff satisfaction, continuous improvement, integration and harmonisation).

This self-regulatory common quality framework complements the extensive legal framework of the European Statistical System based on the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics which itself derives from the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. High-quality European statistics and services are therefore developed, produced and disseminated in a very robust legal and quality framework.

The Quality Declaration of the European Statistical System, included in the subsequent pages of this brochure, demonstrates the quality awareness that exists in the European Statistical System as well as the self-commitment of all its members to continuously developing, producing and disseminating high-quality European statistics and services in order to sustainably provide value to its users.

19 European Statistical Governance Advisory Board: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/esgab/introduction>

QUALITY DECLARATION OF THE EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM

The European Statistical System is a partnership in which Eurostat and the national statistical authorities of each EU Member State and EFTA country cooperate. Together, our mission is to provide independent high quality statistical information at European, national and regional levels and to make this information available to everyone for decision-making, research and debate.

The programme and priorities of European statistics are discussed and agreed by ESS members with the final decisions taken in a democratic manner according to European legislative procedures.

We operate under a strict legal regime,²⁰ supplemented by a robust, world-class and self-regulatory quality framework, the backbone of which is the European Statistics Code of Practice.²¹ Our compliance with the Code of Practice is periodically assessed by means of review mechanisms and strict follow-up of the improvement actions²² identified.

We see quality as the basis of our competitive advantage in a world experiencing a growing trend of instant information which often lacks the necessary proof of quality. Our work is governed by professional independence, impartial treatment of all our users, objectivity, reliability, statistical confidentiality and cost-effectiveness. The development, production and dissemination of our statistics are based on sound methodologies, the best international standards and appropriate procedures that are well documented in a transparent manner. Our principles of quality are: relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, as well as comparability and coherence.

We consistently strive to minimise the burden on our respondents, cultivate good cooperation with data providers and cooperate closely with stakeholder groups including the scientific communities.

We are committed to statistical excellence by systematically identifying our strengths and weaknesses, as well as related risks which we duly take into account by the continuous development of our common quality framework. By continuously modernising, innovating and compiling new indicators, we not only improve the quality of our products and services, but also attempt to anticipate emerging phenomena and needs with our users.

Heads of the National Statistical Institutes and Director-General of Eurostat

20 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2016:202:FULL&from=EN> and Regulation (EC) n° 223/2009 on European statistics as amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/759 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02009R0223-20150608&from=EN>.

21 European Statistics Code of Practice <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5921941/KS-32-11-955-FR.PDF/f1dfd441-391c-4c15-94f2-b34a43697f55> and Common Quality Framework of the European Statistical System <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4392716/ESS-QAF-V1-2final.pdf/bbf5970c-1adf-46c8-afc3-58ce177a0646> .

22 First and second rounds of peer reviews: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/first-round-of-peer-reviews> and <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/peer-reviews>.

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 Principles are professional independence, coordination and cooperation, 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 Institutes 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 procedures for the recruitment and appointment of the heads of the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat and, where appropriate, the statistical heads of other statistical authorities, are transparent and based on professional criteria 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 1bis: Coordination and cooperation National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat ensure the coordination of all activities for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics at the level of the national statistical system and the European Statistical System, respectively.

Statistical authorities actively cooperate within the partnership of the European Statistical System, so as to ensure the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.

Indicator 1bis. 1: The National Statistical Institutes coordinate the statistical activities of all other national authorities that develop, produce and disseminate European statistics. They act in this regard as the sole contact point for Eurostat on statistical matters. Legislation and well defined and established procedures are in place for implementing the coordination role at both national and European levels.

Indicator 1bis. 2: National guidelines to ensure quality in the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the national statistical system are produced by the Heads of the National Statistical Institutes, where necessary; their implementation is monitored and reviewed.

Indicator 1bis. 3: Statistical authorities continuously maintain and develop cooperation at various levels with each other and with the advisory bodies of the European Statistical System, as well as with the members of the European System of Central Banks, academic institutions and other international bodies, as appropriate.

Principle 2: Mandate for Data Collection and Access to Data Statistical authorities have a clear legal mandate to collect and access information from multiple data sources 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 and access information from multiple data sources for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics is specified in law.

Indicator 2.2: The statistical authorities are allowed by law to access administrative data, promptly and free of charge, and use them for statistical purposes. They are involved from the beginning in the design, development and discontinuation of administrative records, in order to make them more suitable for statistical purposes.

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

Indicator 2.4: Access for statistical purposes to other data, such as privately held data, is facilitated, while ensuring statistical confidentiality and data protection.

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

Indicator 3.1: Human, financial and technical resources, adequate both in magnitude and in quality, are available to meet statistical needs.

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 output quality.

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

Indicator 4.2: Procedures are in place to plan, monitor and improve the quality of the statistical processes, including the integration of data from multiple data sources.

Indicator 4.3: Output 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 and Data Protection The privacy of data providers, the confidentiality of the information they provide, its use only for statistical purposes and the security of the data 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 throughout the statistical processes. The confidentiality policy is made known to the public.

Indicator 5.5: The necessary regulatory, administrative, technical and organisational measures are in place to protect the security and integrity of statistical data and their transmission, in accordance with best practices, international standards, as well as European and national legislation.

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 data sources and statistical methods as well as decisions about the dissemination of statistics are based on statistical considerations.

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

Indicator 6.4: Information on data sources, 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: Statistical authorities independently decide on the time and content of statistical releases, while taking into account the goal of providing complete and timely statistical information. All users have equal access to statistical releases at the same time. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user shall be limited, controlled and publicised. In case of breach, pre-release arrangements are reviewed 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 statistical processes used by the statistical authorities to develop, produce and disseminate European Statistics, while constantly striving for innovation. The credibility of the statistics is enhanced by a reputation for good management and efficiency. The relevant Principles 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, while constantly striving for innovation.

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

Indicator 7.3: The registers and frames used for European Statistics 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: Statistical authorities maintain and develop cooperation with the scientific community 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 throughout the statistical processes, underpin quality statistics.

Indicator 8.1: When European Statistics are based on administrative and other data, the definitions and concepts used for non-statistical 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: Statistical processes are routinely monitored and revised as required.

Indicator 8.4: Metadata related to statistical processes are managed throughout the statistical processes and disseminated, as appropriate.

Indicator 8.5: Revisions follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures.

Indicator 8.6: Agreements are made with holders of administrative and other data which set out their shared commitment to the use of these data for statistical purposes.

Indicator 8.7: Statistical authorities co-operate with holders of administrative and other 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 response burden is spread as widely as possible over survey populations and monitored by the statistical authority.

Indicator 9.3: The data 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 and other data sources are used whenever possible to avoid duplicating requests for data.

Indicator 9.5: Data sharing and data integration, while adhering to confidentiality and data protection

requirements, are promoted to minimise response burden.

Indicator 9.6: Statistical authorities promote measures that enable the linking of data sources in order to minimise response 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 communication technology is being optimised for the statistical processes.

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

Indicator 10.4: Statistical authorities promote, share and implement standardised 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. Output quality is measured by the extent to which the statistics are relevant, accurate and reliable, timely, coherent, comparable across regions and countries, and readily accessible by users, i.e. the Principles of Statistical Output.

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

Indicator 11.1: Procedures are in place to consult users, to monitor the relevance and value of existing statistics in meeting their needs, and to consider and anticipate their emerging needs and priorities. Innovation is pursued to continuously improve statistical output.

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.

Indicator 12.1: Source data, integrated 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 source data, statistical processes and outputs.

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 and reliability 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 data 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 data sources.

Indicator 14.4: Statistics from the different data 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, methods, platforms and open data standards.

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 related to outputs are managed and disseminated by the statistical authority according to the European standards.

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

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

Annexe 9 : The Ministerial Statistical Offices on 31 December 2018

DREES	Ministry for Solidarity and Health Ministry for Labour Ministry for Public Action and Accounts Department of Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics
SSP	Ministry for Agriculture and Food Secretariat General Department of Statistics and Forward Studies
SDES	Ministry for the Ecological and Solidarity Transition General Commission on Sustainable Development Department for Data and Statistical Studies
DEPP	Ministry for National Education Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation Department of Evaluation, Forward Studies and Performance
SIES	Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation Under-Directorate for Information Systems and Statistical Studies
DARES	Ministry for Labour Department for the Coordination of Research, Studies and Statistics
Justice	Ministry for Justice Secretariat General Under-Directorate for Information Systems and Statistical Studies
Local authorities	Ministry for Territorial Cohesion Directorate General for Local Authorities Department for Local Studies and Statistics
Public Finances	Ministry for Public Action and Accounts Directorate General for Public Finances Fiscal Management Department Under-Directorate for Property, Taxation of Assets and Statistics Office of Fiscal Statistical Studies
Customs	Ministry for Public Action and Accounts Directorate General for Customs and Indirect Taxation Department for Statistics and Economic Studies
Civil Service	Ministry for Public Action and Accounts Directorate General for the Administration and Civil Service Department of Studies, Statistics and Information Systems
Immigration Integration	Ministry for the Interior Directorate General for Foreigners in France Department of Statistics, Studies and Documentation
Youth and Sport	Ministry for National Education Department with national competence named "National Institute of Youth and Popular Education" Studies, Observation and Statistics Unit
Defence	Ministry for the Armed Forces Directorate of Financial Affairs Economic Observatory of Defence

Culture	Ministry for Culture Secretariat General Department of Studies, Forward Studies and Statistics
Internal Security (SSMSI)	Ministry for the Interior Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal Security under the Central Director of the Judicial Police

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92 541 Montrouge Cedex

secretariat-general@autorite-statistique-publique.fr

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