



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRENCH OFFICIAL  
STATISTICS AUTHORITY  
MARCH 2023 – FEBRUARY 2024**

**President: Mireille Elbaum**

**Rapporteur: Pascale Pollet**

**March 2024**



# FOREWORD

In 2023 and the first two months of 2024, the French statistical system once again found itself faced with a changing economic context, marked by inflationary tension and significant uncertainties at international level. This led it to take action to closely monitor the cyclical economic fluctuations and, in particular, the repercussions of changes in producer and consumer prices on the main economic indicators and the various household and company categories.

While expanding its work on the consequences of the health crisis, in terms of mortality, workplace experience and professional integration, the system also provided updated insights into various aspects of demographic, social and societal changes, in 2023. Its contributions were significant in terms of, for example, the turning point in birth and fertility rates, the situation of immigrants and their children, the distribution of standards of living and poverty (following the statistical issue encountered the year before) and the wider redistribution approach based on the “distributive national accounts”. Working conditions, job satisfaction and “well-being at work” were examined in both companies and the French civil service (or more specifically, in the case of teachers). New analyses were produced on health literacy, the links between exposure to pollution and social inequalities among children, manifestations of sexism and domestic violence, as well as digital skills among secondary school pupils and the way in which they spend their school holidays. Environmental, agricultural and food-production issues also gave rise to a series of enhanced insights, whilst, in the fields of associations and culture, unprecedented studies were conducted into community involvement and contributions on the one hand, and the practice of cultural activities through attending live events, on the other.

Key steps were also taken during 2023 to overhaul key Official Statistics mechanisms (census bulletins, cause of death statistics, statistical monitoring of tourism and live events, etc.) and to create statistical databases using administrative data reconciled with other information sources, while significant progress was also made with the development of structural tools shared within the Official Statistical Service (NAF revision, directory of individuals and housing, etc.). The French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) is particularly interested in making wider and more diversified use of the Nominative Social Declaration (*Déclaration sociale nominative*, DSN), by highlighting the importance of increased coordination based on the Official Statistical Service (SSP) in order to guarantee its enrichment, quality and relevance. The ASP also insisted on the indispensability of cooperation and pooling of resources within the Official Statistical Service, not only for the purposes of sharing and standardising statistical practices, but also to incorporate concepts and approaches resulting from this shared statistical culture into the public and social debate.

2023 also saw notable progress in the resolution of several structural difficulties identified by the ASP in its previous reports: the updating and reorganisation of the Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs) for justice and defence; catching up on and advancing the overhaul of cause of death statistics; written assurance that the Law of 7 June 1951 effectively authorises the MSOs to access all data covered by professional secrecy (not excluding secrecy of inquiries and investigations); clarification of the powers to redistribute administrative data reprocessed by the MSOs to the government departments from which they originate, in order to achieve better conciliation between the services offered and conservation of statistical confidentiality. However, there is still work to be done to make detailed data accessible for research and study purposes without affecting the access procedures already in operation.

In terms of both governance and communication, the reference framework for the process of disseminating statistical publications issued by the Official Statistical Service adopted in February 2023 proved to be a valuable tool in its communication with contacts outside of the Official Statistical Service, in particular at ministerial level. The same is true, but from a different perspective, in the case of the INSEE blog, which makes it possible to provide clarifications to the media and informed users about methodological questions that, at times, lead to investigations.

Despite these positive points, the Statistical Authority highlighted a series of different incidents over the course of 2023 which required a more educational yet firmer response from it in order to guarantee application of the European Statistics Code of Practice. Embargo breaches by the press or from ministerial circles, together with the need to strengthen the professional independence of certain MSOs with regard to the content and timing of their publications, also led the Authority to actively indicate their unacceptability and seek a commitment that measures would be taken to prevent a repeat occurrence. These incidents demonstrated the need to repeatedly inform all points of contact of the rules that govern how Official Statistics works under law and to provide regular reminders of the underlying principles of professional independence. In 2023, the ASP also conducted an investigation together with the INSEE Internal Audit Unit into an alert raised by a trade union following the ASP's 2022 appointment as the reference authority for whistleblowers in terms of official statistics.

This required the Official Statistical Service to respond to some of the methodological or rather controversial objections or issues raised regarding the statistical results that it had published. Providing suitable responses to these various objections is crucially important for Official Statistics, which must be both transparent and avoid controversies that would call into question its neutrality or credibility.

Alongside this day-to-day monitoring, the Authority also made progress with the implementation of the "Official Statistics Strategy" in 2023, which aims to expand the coverage of statistical regulations to include key quantitative information disseminated "for general information purposes" by public bodies or bodies tasked with providing a public service. Firstly, "labelling", if renewed or otherwise suspended, makes it possible to guarantee the long-term quality and consistency of key statistical information or to ensure its re-establishment, for example in the case of cause of death statistics or, in future, jobseeker statistical series, which will be disrupted following the introduction of new regulations governing registration with France Travail, the French unemployment registration agency. Secondly, the "recognition of public interest statistics status" is a useful tool that will allow for more bodies and statistical series to be included in this strategy with a view to achieving greater clarity and transparency for users. In 2023, these two complementary processes led to a working seminar, following which the ASP approved guidelines and a method seeking to guide the development of the strategy over the next few years.

Communication should play a key role, in terms of both the specific place of statistics in policies seeking to make data more available and statistical regulation as a whole. The main communication work to be done relates to the dissemination of a "statistical culture", the aim of which will be to allow the various categories of the public (journalists, media, teachers and students, stakeholders and decision-makers, etc.) to master the basic skills required to understand, interpret and critically evaluate the quantitative information disseminated in the public debate (interpretation in the case of surveys, for example).

Mireille Elbaum

# STATEMENT OF THE AUTHORITY ON THE PRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS AND ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE

In 2023, against the backdrop of a changing economic context still rife with inflationary tension and uncertainty at international level, the Official Statistical Service (SSP) continued its efforts to adapt and monitor the main economic, social and societal changes with a view to meeting stakeholder and user needs for clarification of statistical information and analysis.

**In the European Union**, the entry into force of the Data Governance Act led to plans for internal legislative adjustments within the Member States. In France, these adjustments took the form of a draft law seeking to bring security and regulation to the digital space (SREN), which is currently being debated in Parliament, taking into account the fact that the mechanisms currently in place via the Secure Data Access Centre (*Centre d'accès sécurisé aux données*, CASD) or, in the health sphere, the Health Data Hub, are already moving in this direction. As regards statistical regulations, the revision of Regulation 223/2009 should make it possible to meet the need for access to private data for European statistics, and progress was also made in discussions about the environmental economic accounts and the Labour market statistics on business regulation. However, the regulation on European statistics on population and housing (ESOP) continues to face difficulties in finding a unified definition of population at European level and in agreeing on the frequency and geographic boundaries of the information to be transmitted due to differences in the information systems.

**Regarding the French Statistical System, the French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) observed, over the course of 2023, a series of developments improving implementation of the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice**, in particular the principles governing the currency and relevance of the statistics produced, and those governing the implementation of suitable and methodologically robust statistical procedures.

The Official Statistical Service (SSP) first of all ensured the observation and analysis of the economic outlook, following three years marked by the health crisis, economic recovery and the fallout from the war in Ukraine, respectively. It did this primarily through energy prices. It placed great emphasis on closely following economic fluctuations, while also continuing its work on the consequences of the health crisis and its aftermath and providing insights into certain social and societal changes that occurred during the period, whether or not associated with this context.

**As 2023 was once again a year subject to a flurry of economic developments, associated in particular with movements in producer and consumer prices, INSEE and various Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs) continued their efforts to adapt so as to be in a position to monitor the situation.** For INSEE, the business outlook surveys and the annual survey on industrial energy consumption (*Enquête annuelle sur les consommations d'énergie dans l'industrie*) were reoriented, while improvements or advancements were made in the production of certain indicators. For the MSOs, analyses were conducted into local finance situations (MSO for local authorities), energy consumption in companies in the defence sector (MSO for defence), monitoring the energy crisis, the

moderation plan and support measures (MSO for energy, housing, transport and the environment), and on the behaviour and tensions observed on the labour market (MSO for labour).

**The work started by the Official Statistical Service in connection with the health crisis also branched out into several subject areas.** Close demographic monitoring, of deaths in particular, was continued at INSEE, while, in line with the catch-up plan, cause of death statistics from 2021 were published in December 2023 (MSO for health and solidarity as part of a collaboration with INSERM (the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research) and Santé publique France (the French National Health Agency)). Regarding the delayed economic impact of the pandemic and the lockdowns, turnover figures for businesses from the culture sector were monitored for a quarterly economic outlook report (MSO for culture) and the beneficiaries of the solidarity fund offering emergency aid for companies affected by the crisis were analysed (MSO for public finances). In terms of labour situations, the survey on workplace experience since the start of the health crisis (*enquête sur le vécu du travail depuis le début de la crise sanitaire* – TraCov 2) was repeated, with the main aim of describing the medium-term impact of the crisis on working conditions, psychosocial risks and workplace health of workers (SSM for labour). The Official Statistical Service also analysed the integration experience of young people whose education was affected by the lockdowns, whether vocational college students (MSO for education), masters graduates (MSO for higher education and research) or beneficiaries of the *garantie jeune* (youth guarantee), a benefit for NEETs aged 16 to 25 (MSO for labour).

**Several statistical productions and studies also provided key or updated insights into various aspects of demographic, social or societal changes in 2023.**

This was specifically the case for births and fertility (INSEE), which have suffered a clear drop, and for the situation of immigrants and their children, via the publication of a highly anticipated edition of “*Insee Références*”, based on the “*Trajectoires et Origines 2*” (Trajectories and Origins 2) survey (INSEE and INED (National Institute for Demographic Studies)) and Elipa 2, a longitudinal survey on integration of new arrivals (MSO for immigration). This is also the case for purchasing power, income inequality, poverty and redistribution with, for INSEE, the results of the survey on spatial consumer price comparison between mainland and overseas regions (*enquête sur la comparaison spatiale des prix à la consommation entre les territoires métropolitains et d’outre-mer*), the resumption of consistent statistics on the distribution of standards of living and poverty, following the difficulties that arose in 2020, and the publication of an “*Insee Analyses*” edition summarising work on “expanded redistribution” carried out based on “distributive national accounts”. In terms of employment situations, the MSO for labour examined open space working conditions, reasons for job satisfaction or dissatisfaction and the jobs most affected by “ergonomic” criteria, whilst the MSO for the civil service took another look at working conditions within the civil service and the characteristics of its agents aged 50 and over, and the MSO for education examined the levers of “workplace well-being” for secondary school teachers. In the area of health, original statistical studies were published on “health literacy” and on the links between air pollution and health inequalities among young children, based on household living standards (MSO for health and solidarity). In the area of security, the MSO for internal security updated its annual publication on the victims of sexism and issued the initial results of the first edition of the survey entitled “*Vécu et ressenti en matière de sécurité*” (Experiences and perceptions of security), with improvements to the topic areas compared with the old “*Cadre de vie et sécurité*” (Living conditions and security) survey, while the MSO for justice released insights into protection against domestic violence and human trafficking. In the fields of education and youth, the results of the 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and the International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS) led to anticipated analysis, as did the digital competence of students on leaving secondary school (SSM for education), whilst the way in which secondary school pupils spend their school holidays, depending on their social background,

was also examined (MSO for youth and sport). Environmental issues gave rise to a series of important and improved insights: quality of surface water, perception of environmental risks, imports of raw materials targeted by the national imported deforestation strategy, CO2 emissions linked to travel (MSO for energy, housing, transport and the environment); energy transition tax credit (MSO for public finances); and use of plant protection products and quality of meals in contract catering (MSO for agriculture and food). This MSO also published a complete overview of the transformations taking place in agriculture and food consumption in early 2024. Lastly, for cultural and community life, insights were developed into the involvement of citizens in community life based on the results of the national survey on community involvement and contributions (*enquête nationale sur l'engagement associatif et les dons*) (MSO for youth and sport), while, in terms of cultural activities, the ticket sales for live events were used for the first time to produce statistics on attendance figures, revenue and number of performances (MSO for culture).

This widening and deepening of knowledge, to which multiple MSOs frequently contributed on the basis of common issues, was of particular interest to the ASP.

**In parallel with the development of these economic or social insights, in 2023, the Official Statistical Service continued its investments seeking to enhance essential statistical mechanisms or to develop shared tools within the Official Statistical Service.**

Some Official Statistics mechanisms were therefore updated and new databases created for statistical purposes through the use of administrative reports and reconciliation of various information sources. The developments made to some of the major mechanisms currently in place include, at INSEE, finalising the Individual Census Form following agreement from the CNIL, updating the indicators for the tax and social income survey (*enquête sur les revenus fiscaux et sociaux*), and implementing the recommendations that resulted from the audit carried out by the INSEE Internal Audit Unit regarding tourism statistics, accompanied by the publication of information and studies on this topic based on various surveys and administrative sources. Efforts were continued to improve statistical sources by collecting and processing administrative data. This was conducted by using the live event ticket sales information system (MSO for culture) as mentioned previously, piloting a software-based system for monitoring the use of plant protection products (MSO for agriculture) and reinstating the individual longitudinal child protection observation mechanism (MSO for health and solidarity).

Above all, this was reflected in ever wider and more diversified use of the Nominative Social Declaration (*Déclaration sociale nominative* (DSN)) within the Official Statistical Service. Here, following a report by the INSEE Internal Audit Unit and the Inspectorate General for Social Affairs, the Authority highlighted the importance of increased coordination to ensure the enrichment, quality, relevance and interpretability of the statistics produced. Furthermore, new statistical databases were developed, resulting from matching operations carried out under the aegis of the Official Statistical Service, and facilitated by the creation of a *Code Statistique Non Signifiant* (Non-Identifying Statistical Code, CSNS) in 2022, which makes it possible to reconcile data on individuals more securely and easily. In particular, this was the case for the InserSup information system, which was deployed in 2023 to monitor professional integration of students (MSO for higher education and research) and for the panel of job seekers and recipients of statutory minimum incomes resulting from the MiDAS statistical data matching project (MSO for labour), whilst work on the new project for the longitudinal monitoring of criminal proceedings was also started towards the end of the year (MSO for internal security and MSO for justice).

Regarding the development of key structural tools for the Official Statistical Service, 2023 saw the completion of the work necessary to revise the French Classification of Activities (NAF), which is now due to come into effect from 2025, firstly in the business registers, before being gradually rolled out

to all statistical productions. Preparation work for the launch of the RÉSIL programme (*répertoire statistique d'individus et de logements* – statistical directory of individuals and housing), also scheduled for 2025, continued through IT developments and pilot testing, as did work on the “new survey structure”, which aims to develop and streamline the processes of collecting information through various channels (face to face, telephone, internet, etc.) by pooling resources within the Official Statistical Service.

The Authority generally welcomed the development of collaborative and pooling efforts, both technical and subject-specific, within the Official Statistical Service, as these are a means of enriching data, sharing methods and distributing concepts and approaches developed by Official Statistics within wider environments. The ASP firstly encouraged the Official Statistical Service to look at the bigger picture and prioritise a more coordinated implementation of these pooled services, in order to make the most of the standardised statistical practices in the public sphere. The ASP also noted that the pooling operations carried out within the Official Statistical Service go beyond merely sharing tools and methods and incorporate a multifaceted series of pooling actions that enable approaches to be developed based on a “joint statistical culture”. It highlighted the benefit of these operations and their incorporation in fostering the dissemination of concepts, methods and approaches promoted by Official Statistics in the political and social debate, a goal that the Authority is keen to pursue.

**In the field of governance, the progress noted by the Authority in 2023 is helping to implement the principles of professional independence, coordination and relevance of Official Statistics in terms of user needs.** Four Ministerial Statistical Offices (under the ministries for labour, education, defence and justice) included a reference to their professional independence and the coordination role played by INSEE within the Official Statistical Service in their respective regulatory texts.

The National Council for Statistical Information (Conseil national de l'information statistique, CNIS) examined the NAF revision, the monitoring of the use of plant protection products in agriculture and the observation and measuring of discrimination. Two working groups are now being set up to look into the ill-treatment of vulnerable people and the consequences of the new rules for registering with France Travail on jobseeker statistics. The work carried out by the CNIS furthermore focused on preparing its medium-term agenda for 2024-2028, which will lead to a seminar in Spring 2024. Within this context, the French Official Statistics Authority expressed a wish that responses to questions and recommendations from CNIS committees and working groups be regularly tracked, in particular as regards their prospects in terms of solutions or concrete projects.

**The efforts undertaken over the last few years to make the work carried out by the Official Statistical Service available in a transparent, clear and accessible way, in compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice, also underwent new developments in 2023.**

Firstly, the reference framework for the process of disseminating statistical publications issued by the Official Statistical Service, which INSEE and the MSOs worked on together in 2022, was adopted by the MSOs in February 2023 and accompanied by a statement from the ASP recommending that it be implemented swiftly. The Authority now systematically uses this reference framework in its communications with its contacts, in particular ministerial contacts, and intends to continue this practice in future.

Improving access to official statistics by making it easier and clearer for users is one of the Official Statistical Service's permanent concerns and forms part of the recommendations issued by the peers following the review in 2021.

For this reason, the Official Statistical Service continued to diversify the ways in which it makes its work available in 2023, using, in some cases, innovative means: broader and more frequent publication of the *INSEE Blog*, increased use of data visualisation to improve the presentation of statistical information and videos to facilitate communication.

It also participated, often via INSEE, in various events to highlight the value of official statistics and organise discussions with government departments, experts and researchers. The meetings, symposiums and conferences organised directly by the Official Statistical Service in 2023 focused in particular on transformations of the labour market and employment challenges of the ecological transition (MSO for labour) and the situation of young people in terms of living, working and health conditions (MSO for youth and sport).

A mission initiated by the French Official Statistics Authority in 2022 did, however, show that this work must be carried out with citizens in mind so as to guarantee the dissemination of a “statistical culture” for which there is clearly a need for development today. This extensive work confirmed the importance for citizens in mastering the basic skills that will enable them to understand the quantitative information included in the public debate and in being able to evaluate it critically at a time when the multiplicity of media channels increases the risk that some of the information will be incorrect or poorly documented. By identifying the knowledge required at various levels (general public, students and teachers, journalists and media, public decision-makers), the inter-unit audit report confirmed that many young people and adults have significant difficulties in this area and that the initiatives rolled out, in particular by the producers of official statistics, are only partially achieving their objectives. Following the mission hearing, the ASP insisted on the need to make improvements to statistical culture and literacy an explicit objective of public policies and called for the implementation of the report’s recommendations. It will be mindful of the initiatives put forward in this area by INSEE and the relevant ministries and will take stock of their progress.

**In 2023, the French Official Statistics Authority also encountered a number of problems that had evolved and that therefore required specific responses to guarantee full application of the Code of Practice.**

Firstly, there were slightly more specific incidents than in 2022, requiring a more educational, yet firm response from the Official Statistical Service and the ASP. Embargo breaches by the media or public players in relation to statistical publications were more frequent, necessitating responses from the Official Statistical Service or the ASP to signal their incompatibility with the law and obtain commitments that measures would be taken to prevent such incidents happening again. The ASP presidency also had to intervene on some occasions in order to safeguard the professional independence of certain Ministerial Statistical Offices, which may have been called into question due to the content and planned release times of some of their publications. Thankfully, though, these instances were few in number. Such incidents demonstrated the need to regularly, and sometimes repeatedly, inform all points of contact of the framework and regulations that govern how Official Statistics works under law and to provide regular reminders of the principles of professional independence that must be applied, in accordance with the European Statistics Code of Practice and in compliance with the “reference framework for the process of disseminating statistical publications issued by the Official Statistical Service” adopted in early 2023.

On several occasions over the course of 2023, the Official Statistical Service also had to issue statements to clarify the handling of certain difficulties encountered during its work and to explain methodological changes made to information released. One example of this affected information related to the use, from September 2023 onwards, of food retail scanner data and turnover figures from specialist shops to assess consumption spending, and then to initially estimate the national accounts for the third quarter of 2023.

Responses were furthermore crucial to address certain objections or issues in relation to statistical results published by the Official Statistical Service. This concerned not only assessments of GDP and consumption, but also changes in consumer prices and household purchasing power, as well as legal population figures established on the basis of the censuses and published in December 2023. The explanations provided and increasingly incorporated into the *INSEE Blog* proved to be valuable assets in responding to questions and informing the media. Although the technical content of these informative articles primarily means they can reach an informed audience, it is not as easy to respond to objections that are sometimes confused or controversial, and which therefore require specific responses. Providing suitable responses to each of these issues is, from the ASP's perspective, of particular importance for Official Statistics, as it must be both transparent and avoid controversies that would call into question its neutrality or credibility.

**For some of the structural difficulties identified by the French Official Statistical Authority in its previous reports, solutions are in sight, however.** This is the case for the updating and reorganisation of the statistical services subject to ASP monitoring following general audits of the defence and justice ministerial offices in particular.

Progress was also made in the processes undertaken to catch up with and update cause of death statistics. As a result, France is now able to meet its statistical obligations towards the European Union and plan for a review of a technical relabelling dossier from late 2024 onwards. Resuming this labelling process, which was suspended in 2022, will however require a guarantee that sufficient, permanent human and financial resources can be provided for the overhaul of these statistics and that IT applications accessible to the statisticians are sufficient for the scale of this statistical work.

There were also advances in the MSOs' access to the administrative data required to perform their activities. Following the interministerial work carried out with the ministries responsible for the economy and justice, the Ministry of the Interior provided the President of the Authority with written assurance that there were no legal barriers attached to the secrecy obligations associated with investigations or inquiries preventing the MSO for internal security and justice from accessing data relating to ongoing cases, that Article 7 bis of the Law of 7 June 1951 effectively authorises the MSOs to access all data covered by professional secrecy, and that there is no legislative intention therein to exclude secrecy of investigations.

Furthermore, the options available to re-disseminate administrative data reprocessed by official statisticians to the government departments from which it originates were clarified. This clarification was based on an internal examination within the Official Statistical Service and proved to be particularly useful where there is a need for the Ministerial Statistical Offices to combine the extension of their services to government departments with full performance of their responsibilities as component parts of the Official Statistical Service, as indicated by the ASP in 2021 in its statement on relations between official statistics and data policies.

Lastly, the ASP noted that efforts would be made to make data on individuals more widely available to researchers and study teams, without disrupting the otherwise satisfactory operation of the access procedures already in operation, in particular as regards statistical and fiscal data, by means of opinions of the Committee for Confidentiality and a Secure Environment proposed by the CASD.

The components of that opinion are the result of ASP meetings, which were held regularly throughout 2023, with, in particular, seven hearings with MSOs. Following its appointment by means of the Decree of 3 October 2022, as the external reference authority for whistleblowers for issues relating to official statistics, the French Official Statistics Authority also set up a procedure for referring and investigating reports, for which it may request the support of the INSEE Audit Unit. It was on this basis, and with this support, that the ASP investigated the report that it received in June 2023 from

the Secretary-General of the Trade Union for the Ministries of Social Affairs and Labour (CGT-SMAST) on statistical publications from the DARES (*Direction de l'animation de la recherche, des études et des statistiques* – Directorate of Research, Economic Studies and Statistics), with a response issued to the report's author in October. This investigation revealed various failings, the impact of which was contained by fully releasing the corresponding statistical results in the DARES publication supporting documents. Following the finding of these failings, the ASP asked the MSO management to strictly follow the principles of the Code of Practice and to send a mass reminder, both internally and to its external contacts, of the provisions of the reference framework for the process of disseminating statistical publications issued by the Official Statistical Service.

As part of its focus on the specific place of statistics in the general data processing policy, the French Official Statistics Authority also made progress in 2023 in the roll-out of its “official statistics strategy”, which aims to expand the coverage of statistical regulations to include key quantitative information disseminated “for general information purposes” by government departments, public bodies or private bodies tasked with providing a public service. This approach covers both the “labelling” procedure and the procedure for granting “recognition of public interest statistics status”, which was started back in late 2021, to statistical series produced by these bodies. In 2023, these two procedures led to one and four hearings before the Authority, respectively. The “labelling” procedure, which is more challenging, allows the ASP to guarantee the long-term quality and consistency of certain key statistical information. Therefore, the reason behind the decision not to renew the labelling of cause of death statistics in late 2022 was to enable implementation of a catch-up and update plan, which has now made good progress. Likewise, the expected impacts on the job seeker statistical series of the new regulations for registering with France Travail, scheduled for general roll-out in 2025, are leading the ASP to consider suspending labelling for this period, while awaiting an in-depth statistical study of these impacts.

Furthermore, these procedures, which both draw on the desire for clearer information for users and improved coordination with the Official Statistical Service, resulted in a working and review seminar in 2023, the aim of which was to draw up an assessment to be shared with the stakeholders and plan the objectives for the future. On the basis of the lessons learned from this, in December 2023, the Authority approved guidelines and a method seeking to guide the development of the “official statistics strategy” over the next few years, which will require it to provide broader communication on both the impacts of this strategy and on the statistical regulatory system as a whole.



# CONTENTS

<b>ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRENCH OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>MARCH 2023 – FEBRUARY 2024.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FOREWORD .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF THE AUTHORITY ON THE PRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS AND ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>REPORT.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>1 EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT.....</b>	<b>17</b>
1.1 SUPERVISION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE .....	17
1.2 PROGRESS IN DISCUSSIONS ON COMMUNITY TEXTS WITH AN IMPACT ON STATISTICS.....	17
1.2.1 <i>Community regulations on data policies</i> .....	17
1.2.2 <i>European statistics regulations</i> .....	18
<b>2 OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN FRANCE IN 2023 .....</b>	<b>21</b>
2.1 OFFICIAL STATISTICAL SERVICE WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHANGING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONTEXT .....	21
2.1.1 <i>Monitoring an economic situation rife with inflationary tension and the impact of this for businesses and households.....</i>	21
2.1.2 <i>Extending work on the consequences of the health crisis.....</i>	22
2.1.3 <i>Diversification of the analyses of demographic, social and societal changes.....</i>	24
2.2 IMPROVING STRUCTURAL TOOLS, FLAGSHIP OPERATIONS AND THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS SYSTEM .....	26
2.2.1 <i>The flagship operations seeking to improve the gathering of information and its use for statistical purposes .....</i>	26
2.2.2 <i>Key structural tools for the Official Statistical Service .....</i>	31
2.2.3 <i>Development of both technical and subject-specific collaborative and pooling efforts within the Official Statistical Service.....</i>	32
2.3 PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE FRENCH OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY THAT EVOLVED AND THEREFORE REQUIRED SPECIFIC RESPONSES .....	33
2.3.1 <i>Specific incidents that had evolved and which required a more educational, yet firmer response from the Official Statistical Service and the French Official Statistics Authority .....</i>	34
2.3.2 <i>The need for the Official Statistical Service to communicate clearly and transparently on the occurrence of certain problems or changes to methods .....</i>	36
2.3.3 <i>Crucial responses to certain objections or issues in relation to current statistical results .....</i>	37
2.4 SOLUTIONS TO STRUCTURAL DIFFICULTIES ARE IN SIGHT .....	38
2.4.1 <i>The updating and reorganisation of statistical services monitored by the French Official Statistics Authority following general audits.....</i>	39
2.4.2 <i>Continuing efforts to catch up with and update cause of death statistics.....</i>	40
2.4.3 <i>MSO access to the administrative data required to perform activities .....</i>	41
2.4.4 <i>Clarifying the possibilities of re-disseminating data reprocessed by official statisticians to its original government departments.....</i>	41
2.4.5 <i>Efforts to make data available to researchers and study teams to be accelerated while preserving the powers and operating method of the Statistical Confidentiality Committee .....</i>	43
2.5 CURRENT AND FUTURE PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF GOVERNANCE .....	44
2.5.1 <i>Adaptation of the texts establishing the responsibilities of the MSOs .....</i>	44
2.5.2 <i>Progress in the work of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS).....</i>	44
2.6 CONTINUING WITH AND DIVERSIFYING EFFORTS IN THE AREAS OF DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION .....	45
2.6.1 <i>Using innovative means to make information available .....</i>	45
2.6.2 <i>Public events to highlight the value of official statistics and organise discussions with government departments, experts and researchers.....</i>	47
2.6.3 <i>New developments needed to improve the statistics culture of French people.....</i>	47

<b>3</b>	<b>ASP ACTIVITY IN 2023.....</b>	<b>49</b>
3.1	HEARINGS WITH OFFICIAL STATISTICS PRODUCERS .....	49
3.2	THE ASP'S INVOLVEMENT IN WHISTLEBLOWING PROCEDURES.....	49
3.3	PROCESSES FOR LABELLING AND RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC INTEREST STATISTICS STATUS ("OFFICIAL STATISTICS STRATEGY") .	50
3.3.1	<i>The labelling of statistics produced using administrative sources.....</i>	51
3.3.2	<i>Recognition of public interest statistics status .....</i>	51
3.3.3	<i>The seminar organised by the ASP on the lessons learned from the "Official Statistics Strategy" and its prospects for the future.....</i>	52
3.4	SPECIFIC MONITORING OF AREAS OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITY RESULTING IN AUDIT REPORTS .....	53
3.5	THE AUTHORITY'S STATEMENTS ON STRUCTURAL OR KEY AREAS FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS .....	54
3.6	OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY COMMUNICATION.....	59
	<b>LIST OF APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>61</b>
	<b>ANNEXE 1 : INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND COMPOSITION OF THE FRENCH OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY .....</b>	<b>63</b>
	<b>ANNEXE 2 : RECIPIENTS OF THE 2023 REPORT .....</b>	<b>65</b>
	<b>ANNEXE 3 : THE MINISTERIAL STATISTICAL OFFICES (MSOS) AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023.....</b>	<b>67</b>
	<b>ANNEXE 4 : 2023 MEETINGS OF THE AUTHORITY .....</b>	<b>69</b>
	<b>ANNEXE 5 : THE AUTHORITY'S STATEMENTS FOLLOWING THE HEARINGS WITH PRODUCERS OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS 73</b>	
	<b>ANNEXE 6 : OPINIONS ON THE RENEWAL OF LABELLING .....</b>	<b>87</b>
	<b>NOR: ECO02330040V .....</b>	<b>87</b>
	<b>ANNEXE 7 : OPINIONS REGARDING PUBLIC INTEREST OFFICIAL STATISTICS STATUS.....</b>	<b>89</b>
	<b>ANNEXE 8 : CONTENT AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE WORKING SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE FRENCH OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2023 ON THE "OFFICIAL STATISTICS STRATEGY" FOR THE BODIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS .....</b>	<b>97</b>
	<b>ANNEXE 9 : CNIS 2023 REPORT .....</b>	<b>113</b>
	<b>I. KEY WORK OF THE CNIS IN 2023 .....</b>	<b>116</b>
	<b>1 – GUIDING PRINCIPLES: PREPARING FOR THE 2024-2028 MEDIUM-TERM PERIOD .....</b>	<b>116</b>
	<b>3 – FOLLOW-UP ON THE CNIS GUIDELINES FOR 2023 .....</b>	<b>116</b>
	3.1. INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF THE STATISTICS DEVELOPED BASED ON ADMINISTRATIVE DATA AND MATCHING OPERATIONS (CONTINUED).....	116
	3.2. IMPROVING THE STATISTICAL OBSERVATION AND MEASUREMENT OF INEQUALITIES AND DISCRIMINATION.....	117
	3.3. DEVELOPING THE USE OF PRIVATE DATA FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES: THE EXAMPLE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MONITORING AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (CONTINUED).....	117
	3.4. THE URGENCY OF THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION: MAJOR MEASURING CHALLENGES.....	118
	3.5. OFFICIAL STATISTICS STRATEGY .....	118
	3.6. EXPRESSING CURRENT SOCIAL NEEDS IN TERMS OF HEALTH.....	118
	<b>II. SUBJECT-SPECIFIC REPORT FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS IN THE COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS.....</b>	<b>120</b>
	<b>① PROGRESS AND EXPECTATIONS IN TERMS OF SOCIAL ISSUES.....</b>	<b>120</b>
	<b>③ PROGRESS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>128</b>
	<b>④ PROGRESS AND EXPECTATIONS IN TERMS OF REGIONAL ISSUES .....</b>	<b>129</b>
	<b>ACRONYMS USED .....</b>	<b>131</b>





# REPORT

## 1 European and International Context

After two years characterised by the aftermath of the health crisis, economic recovery and then the consequences of the war in Ukraine, 2023 was primarily marked, for the European statistical system, by the need to closely monitor both the economy, which slowed over the course of the year, and changes in prices, against the backdrop of inflationary tension, which, while easing, had not disappeared.

Work by the European statistics institutes tasked with supervising the application of the Code of Practice continued.

As part of this, the discussions and developments regarding various regulations currently under review continued and, in some cases, were completed over the course of the year.

### 1.1 Supervision of the application of the European Statistics Code of Practice

2023 saw the completion of the peer review cycle started in 2021, which drew to a close at the end of the year. By 27 February 2024, all the reports had been published and eight action plans had been shared. The final workshop of the cycle, which brought together national coordinators and experts, was held in Bucharest in late November 2023 with the aim of drawing up the initial lessons learned. A report for the Parliament and the Council will be shared in March 2024, after it has been validated by the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC).

The 2023 report of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB), an independent board that issues a report each year on the overall situation of the European Statistical System (ESS) with regard to the Code of Practice, also provides a review of the application of the principles of the Code, grouping them into six major sections (professional independence, impartiality and objectivity; statistical system development; access to administrative and privately held data sources; resource availability and management; quality assurance of statistical processes and outputs, and; user orientation and responsiveness). It contains 28 recommendations in this regard, taking a dynamic and forward-looking approach with a view to preparing the ESS for current issues and future challenges. The Board's Chairman, Aurel Schubert, says that these recommendations reflect the "best practices" in use within the EU Member States and that their widespread roll-out is, in the ESGAB's view, desirable, and should be achieved, in particular, via a revision of Regulation 223/2009 (see section 1.2.2.1 below).

### 1.2 Progress in discussions on Community texts with an impact on statistics

#### 1.2.1 Community regulations on data policies

Since February 2020, the European Commission has had a European data strategy that primarily aims to develop a "single market" for data, while also guaranteeing protection of personal data. To achieve this, it has two regulations, the Data Act and the Data Governance Act.

The **Data Act**, which is expected to be published in the Official Journal of the European Union (EU) shortly, will not be directly beneficial for establishing official statistics. The included conditions under which private data can be accessed for public purposes are limited to emergencies so as to meet exceptional needs, for a limited period. The text also provides for financial compensation for holders of private data, to indemnify them for costs incurred in making the data available.

The **Data Governance Act (DGA)**, which came into effect in September 2023, aims to promote the accessibility of data and develop a trusting environment for sharing data within the European Union, with a view to facilitating data use to create new, innovative products and services, and for research purposes. This framework encourages increased sharing of confidential data held by public bodies, but without imposing new obligations in terms of provision.

The implementation of this text in France should take place by using the mechanisms already in place via the CASD or the Health Data Hub as precursory elements. The future implications of this for the Official Statistical Service should focus on clarifying three points: the role that the competent body plays in support of public bodies wanting to provide confidential data; the creation of a single point of information listing the accessible data and referring to sector-specific information points; the positioning of the national sector-specific hubs already in existence within the system of common data spaces.

The planned implementation of the DGA in France is subject to provisions of the draft law seeking to bring security and regulation to the digital space (SREN) that is currently being debated: DINUM (*direction interministérielle du numérique* – Interministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs) has been appointed as the single point of information for France; ARCEP (*autorité de régulation des communications électroniques, des postes et de la distribution de la presse* – the regulatory authority for electronic communications, postal services and press distribution) has been appointed as the competent authority for data mediation services; and CNIL (*Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés* – National Committee on Information Technology and Civil Liberties) has been appointed as the competent authority for the registration of “data altruism” organisations, i.e. those seeking to promote the sharing of data between stakeholders for general interest objectives.

The application of this regulation should take place in different ways within the Union, with progress in terms of review processes within the Member States being regularly discussed during international meetings.

### 1.2.2 European statistics regulations

Progress was made over the course of 2023 with the main draft or revised European regulations currently under review and these are set to be completed during 2024.

#### 1.2.2.1 The revised Regulation 223/2009 or European law on statistics

Given the provisions of the Data Act, the revised Regulation 223/2009 will become the ideal means of meeting private data access needs for European statistics, whether this takes place for testing purposes or as a result of permanent needs.

In general, the revised regulation seeks to implement a coordinated mechanism for statistical crisis responses, promote data sharing within the European Statistical System (ESS) and update the respective roles of Eurostat and the national statistics authorities.

National statistical service access to private data will, from now on, come in the form of an obligation to provide this data, on condition that this access is based on a need enshrined in the European Union statistics plan. Requests may be formulated by Eurostat on behalf of the Member States.

The new provisions incorporated into this revised regulation do have consequences for the French Official Statistical Service. INSEE, in its role as the French National Statistical Institute (NSI), and the Ministerial Statistical Offices will have access to private data collected directly by Eurostat and/or held by it after having been collected by the Member States. INSEE will be responsible for sharing this data with the MSOs. The experimental statistics produced directly by Eurostat may only be shared with the agreement of the statistical authorities of the countries concerned.

One of the points debated while drafting this regulation related to potential financial compensation for the holders of private data. A principle of free access was finally decided upon, given that numerous countries were in favour, but compensation of costs incurred in the provision of the data is still possible.

#### 1.2.2.2 The Regulation on European statistics on population and housing (ESOP)

This framework regulation seeks to improve the comparability of population statistics between EU Member States, at a more granular geographical level and with more frequent updates from 2025 onwards. Its proposals include standardised definitions of population and broader use of administrative sources.

However, the demographic data systems differ from one country to another and are primarily organised around either statistical surveys, as is the case in France, or administrative data or registers, as in the Scandinavian countries.

Various differences became apparent over the course of the discussions. These relate to the requirements governing data provision in terms of content, frequency and levels of geographical breakdown. The majority of countries felt that the Commission's proposals would lead to difficulties, although these difficulties have, however, turned out to be specific to each Member State. The challenges for France lay in the possibilities of quicker data production at municipal level, and the establishment of infra-annual data on population levels or migration.

The definition of the term population itself also creates another set of difficulties. The Commission's proposal is based on habitual residence, a definition used internationally by the UN and championed by France, but which was called into question by the countries that use registers as they prefer the concept of "registered legal population" (calculated using the entries in these registers). The Swedish Presidency tabled a proposal, the consequences of which are still to be examined. If it goes ahead, this could constitute a satisfactory compromise for France as habitual residence would be retained as the primary definition.

#### 1.2.2.3 The environmental economic accounts

After six months of negotiations, the Council adopted a mandate in late December 2023 to enter into discussions with the Parliament regarding the proposed revised European regulation on environmental economic accounts.

Under this proposal, three additional modules would become mandatory: forest accounts, environmental subsidies and similar transfers, and ecosystem accounts, such as, for example, woods and forests, rivers and canals, agricultural land, built-up and artificial areas, etc.

Although the positions of the Commission and the European Parliament initially diverged, common ground was eventually found over the course of the discussions. By the start of 2024, only one sticking point remained: this related to investments and capital transfers by institutional sectors and business sectors.

#### 1.2.2.4 The Labour market statistics on business regulation (LMB)

This draft regulation covers labour market statistics drawn up on the basis of company data. It aims to streamline the regulatory framework on the collection of statistics on wage structure and labour costs, job vacancies, the gender pay gap and the labour cost index and seeks to simplify, harmonise and ensure the advance publication of these indicators.

The coverage provided by the indicators produced and published under this regulation will be extended to include companies with fewer than 10 employees and the public sector. The labour cost index will be produced more quickly, and sent and shared 45 days after the end of the quarter in question.

In order to prepare for this deadline, INSEE provided, in November 2023, an initial flash labour cost index to meet this need for shorter intervals.

Current negotiations for this draft regulation should be complete during 2024.

One of the new Community working themes is the perception of discrimination. Eurostat noted an increased need for European statistics on the experience and perception of discrimination. This need for European statistics covers six forms of discrimination: sex/gender, age, disability, ethnic background, sexual orientation, and religion. However, several directors of national statistics institutes highlighted legal difficulties or ethical issues in collecting information relating to ethnicity, sexual orientation and religion.

At the preliminary stages, questions relating to measuring discrimination were withdrawn from the framework regulation on population censuses (ESOP), at the request of the national statistics institutes.

In June 2023, Eurostat suggested the creation of a task force for this issue under the leadership of the social statistics directors, for which INSEE has applied.

## 2 Official Statistics in France in 2023

The elements of the work carried out by the Official Statistical Service in 2023, which are presented here, are not intended to be exhaustive, but simply to highlight some of the key points, which, in the view of the French Official Statistics Authority, marked these changes. They are based on activity reports sent by the INSEE “Statistical Coordination” mission and all the Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs), in relation to the hearings organised by the ASP over the course of the year and the lessons learned from the general audits presented.

In 2023, after three years of severely fluctuating economic activity marked by the health crisis, the economic recovery that followed, and then the consequences of the war in Ukraine, primarily energy prices, the Official Statistical Service was asked to meet a need for close monitoring of the economic situation, both over the course of the year and in the various business sectors, and of the social consequences resulting from this chain of events, in a context of persistent inflationary tension, affecting the price of essential goods in particular.

To meet this need, the Official Statistical Service extended, adapted or enhanced some of its recent mechanisms, as it had in previous years. The use of data sources with key statistical importance furthermore enabled it to continue with basic investments in structural tools or issues requiring new insights.

All this work fell within the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice in terms of the currency and relevance of the statistics produced and in terms of the coordinated implementation of suitable and methodologically robust statistical procedures.

### 2.1 Official Statistical Service work associated with the changing economic and social context

In 2023, the Official Statistical Service emphasised the importance of observing the economic situation and of closely monitoring fluctuations over the course of the year, in particular via the impact of price rises, specifically energy price rises, on the various components of the economy. It also continued its work on the consequences of the health crisis and the aftermath as the information required for these analyses had become available, and on certain social and societal changes that took place over the period, whether associated or not.

The French Official Statistics Authority welcomed these enhanced and diversified analyses.

#### 2.1.1 Monitoring an economic situation rife with inflationary tension and the impact of this for businesses and households

2023 saw a flurry of economic developments, owing primarily to the impact of geopolitical tensions and the resulting major shifts in producer and consumer prices. To monitor and gain in-depth insights into these developments, INSEE and some of the MSOs continued their work to adjust their survey or study mechanisms in 2023.

At **INSEE**, the business outlook survey mechanism was reoriented to take this context into account. The *ad hoc* module on energy prices that was introduced at the end of 2022 was revised and reintroduced in early 2023 in a streamlined and more qualitative form. It now seeks to assess changes in past and future business behaviour and the impact of the energy context on economic activity. Furthermore, economic analyses continued to be more frequent than before the health crisis,

with, for example, the publication of three intermediate *Points de conjoncture* [Economic Outlook Updates] in addition to the four quarterly *Notes de conjoncture* [Economic Outlook Reports].

In order to document the impact of changing energy prices on business activity, in particular among industrial companies, the questionnaire for the annual survey on industrial energy consumption sent out in early 2023 was improved to include items related to changes in tariffs and the expected impact on the company's activity. The analysis of the survey, organised in two phases, enabled initial price estimations and qualitative information to be made available quickly, in June 2023, with a dossier in the *Insee Références* collection following in December 2023.

Furthermore, in order to measure the change in household consumption used in these quarterly reports in a way that was both more accurate and less exposed to risks of revision, INSEE used food retail scanner data from the quarterly accounts for the third quarter of 2023 onwards. What is more, the labour cost index (LCI), which, up to now, was published around 75 days after the end of the quarter in question, has, since November 2023, led to an initial estimate around a month earlier (at around 45 days) thanks to the advance use of data from the Nominative Social Declaration.

**Some Ministerial Statistical Offices** have also adapted their survey or data reporting systems in line with the information needs generated by the economic context.

As part of its regular publications, **the Department of Local Studies and Statistics (DESL), the MSO for the ministry responsible for local authorities**, helped in 2023 with the production of analyses on the effects of inflation on local finances in 2022 by closely examining disparities between local authorities, depending on whether they are in tourist, rural or primarily residential areas.

In order to meet the need for monitoring of energy consumption by businesses in this sector, **the Sub-Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies (S2E), which is the MSO for the Ministry for the Armed Forces**, used data from energy suppliers (electricity and gas) in order to establish a month-by-month view.

In 2023, within a context of highly uncertain supplies and energy price tensions, **the Data and Statistical Studies Department (SDES), the MSO for the ministries responsible for the environment, energy, construction, housing and transport**, continued to focus intensely on monitoring the energy crisis, the moderation plan and support measures so as to meet ministerial needs and international demands. Investments were also continued with a view to enriching and consolidating the statistics offered, in terms of providing local energy data, monitoring prices, drawing up a hydrogen assessment, and taking into account the impact of the climate on consumption. Energy renovation also remained a key issue, with monitoring of renovation assistance measures in the residential sector, collection of data from a new survey on energy renovation work in housing (*enquête sur les travaux de rénovation énergétique dans les logements*), initial work on the effects of these renovations on actual energy consumption and an assessment of new sources in the tertiary sector.

Based on the information that it regularly collects, **the Research, Studies, and Statistics Directorate (DARES), the MSO for the ministry responsible for labour and employment**, focused on providing analyses of behaviour and tensions observed on the labour market, notably by focusing analyses on the increasing number of people seeking jobs while already in employment and on sectors affected by the increase in resignations.

### 2.1.2 Extending work on the consequences of the health crisis

In 2023, work continued to monitor the impact and consequences of the health crisis in various areas, with a view to developing deeper knowledge as welcomed by the ASP.

At **INSEE**, closer demographic monitoring, in particular of deaths, was broadened: on the one hand, monthly reports on daily births and deaths with comments and files that can be uploaded to [insee.fr](https://insee.fr) were continued; on the other hand, the study on excess mortality compared to forecasts was updated to incorporate mortality figures for 2022.

Regionally, given the consequences of the health crisis and the growth in remote working, there was increased demand from local stakeholders for information on household choice of location, which was subject to specific projects.

In terms of health observation, which falls under the remit of the Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics Directorate (DREES), the MSO for the ministry responsible for health and social affairs, one of the key developments relates to the publication, in the framework of work it conducted together with the CépiDc (Centre for Epidemiology on the Medical Causes of Death, a unit within INSERM, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research) and Santé publique France (the French Health Authority), of cause of death statistics for 2021 in December 2023, in accordance with its obligations to the European Union (see section 2.4.2 below). Work was also carried out to establish a new estimate of disability-free life expectancy at 65 for 2022. The DREES furthermore continued to use the ÉpiCov survey on epidemiology and living conditions, carried out in partnership with INSERM, to analyse the Covid-19 vaccine coverage, including in terms of social inequalities, and psychosocial difficulties in children and adolescents. Tensions in the provision of care were also monitored via the availability of hospital beds to receive patients or behaviour of nurses in training. The use of temporary staff in the hospital sector was analysed in partnership with the DARES, which specifically monitored terminations of permanent contracts in private-sector hospitals and residential facilities for the elderly.

Regarding the economic impacts of the health crisis, the Department of Studies, Foresight, Statistics and Documentation (DEPS), the MSO for the Ministry of Culture, provides quarterly reports on turnover declared by companies in the commercial sector to the Directorate-General for Public Finance (DGFIP) in an economic outlook report. In order to monitor activity in sectors particularly affected by the health crisis, such as heritage sites (museums, exhibition spaces, national monuments, etc.), cinema and live events, it also coordinates the gathering of data and its internal redistribution to the ministry in the form of dashboards. **The Department for Fiscal Studies and Statistics (DESF) of the DGFIP** conducted a study of beneficiaries of the solidarity fund, an aid mechanism set up by the State to offer emergency assistance in 2020 and 2021 to companies affected by the Covid-19 health crisis.

Regarding the aftermath of the health crisis in terms of labour situations, the DARES once again conducted the TraCov 2 survey on workplace experience since the start of the health crisis in 2023, with initial results available in early 2024. The primary objective of this survey is to describe the medium-term impact of the health crisis on labour conditions, psychosocial risks and workplace health of workers from various perspectives: remote working and use of digital tools, work patterns, preventive measures, health and economic (in)security, work-life balance, etc.

In relation to integration processes, the DARES also described the changes in the pathways taken by beneficiaries of the *Garantie Jeune* youth benefit programme during the health crisis, while the **Directorate of Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Monitoring (DEPP), the MSO for the ministry responsible for national education**, analysed entry into active life by young vocational college students who finished their studies in 2018 and 2019, and whose career pathway was affected at various points by the health crisis and lockdowns, and the **Information Systems and Statistical Studies Sub-Directorate (SIES), the MSO for the ministry responsible for higher education and research**, studied the changes in professional integration and employment conditions of master's graduates during the crisis.

The SIES also tracked the success and transition of students into the second year of their degree course in 2020/2021, while the DEPP monitored the impact of the health crisis on school pupils' learning, using, in particular, national assessments for pupils aged 6-8 (CP-CE1), and focusing primarily on French and mathematics.

### 2.1.3 Diversification of the analyses of demographic, social and societal changes

2023 saw the implementation of several studies and analyses that provided key or updated insights into various aspects of demographic, social and societal changes. The French Official Statistics Authority noted that this diversification was of particular interest as regards the analysis topics, as multiple Ministerial Statistical Offices often contribute to them simultaneously.

In an edition of *INSEE Focus* published in autumn 2023, INSEE highlighted the fact that in 2022 the number of births fell to its lowest point since the end of the Second World War. This finding was backed up by the 2023 demographic review published in January 2024, which highlighted the drop in fertility, while life expectancy saw an upturn.

Still on the topic of population changes, the DREES dedicated a statistical dossier to blended families in October 2023, while an *Insee Références* edition was published in March on immigrants and their descendants, offering a broad overview of the socio-demographic characteristics of immigrants and their descendants, and following up on an issue of *Insee Première*, released in February, on the number of children of female immigrants. Several data sources originating from Official Statistics were used for this work, including, first and foremost, the “*Trajectoires et Origines 2*” survey carried out by INSEE and the INED (National Institute for Demographic Studies). **The Department of Studies, Statistics and Documentation (DSED), the MSO for the ministry responsible for immigration and integration**, made a notable contribution to this through the results of the Elipa 2 longitudinal survey on integration of new arrivals, the second round of which has made it possible to provide insights into the migration trajectories and plans of new arrivals and analyse the first years that refugees spend in France.

As regards purchasing power, income inequality, poverty and redistribution, INSEE released, in July 2023, the results of the survey that it has been conducting remotely for many years on spatial comparisons of consumer prices between mainland regions and five overseas territories. This comparison covers various baskets of commercial goods and services consumed by households in the regions compared. The annual publication “*France, portrait social*” [France, Social Portrait], released in November 2023, also compared the increase in spending linked to inflation and changes in standard of living of households based on their income position, and analysed the mechanisms that have partially offset these effects.

More generally, for 2021, following the statistical difficulties encountered in 2020, INSEE resumed consistent production of statistics on the distribution of standards of living and poverty, highlighting that, although the changes between 2019 and 2020 remain largely unclear, France came out of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 with a higher poverty rate than in 2019. The analysis of the 2022 socio-fiscal reforms given in *France, portrait social*, however, highlighted that these had increased disposable household income, in particular among those with the lowest income, owing to the exceptional measures taken to support purchasing power. The Institute also published an edition of *Insee Analyses* in autumn 2023 summarising the work on “expanded redistribution” carried out using the “distributive national accounts”, which distribute all national income among the various household categories. This more comprehensive approach, which includes all deductions and transfers, as well as a monetary valuation of public services, brought to light the positive effects of the redistribution for more than half of households, owing to the role played by these public services.

As regards the analysis of employment situations, the DARES particularly examined open space working conditions, reasons for job satisfaction or dissatisfaction and the jobs most affected by “ergonomic” criteria (manual handling, strenuous postures and mechanical vibrations), as well as the practice of subcontracting and the risks of workplace accidents that may be linked to this. For its part, **the Studies, Statistics, and Information Systems Sub-Directorate (SDESI), the MSO for the ministry responsible for the civil service**, took another look at working conditions in the civil service before the health crisis, the characteristics of its agents aged 50 or over and young people’s experience and perception of the civil service. The DEPP also looked at well-being at work by studying its “levers” for secondary school teachers, using indices developed on the basis of the first edition of the *Baromètre du bien-être au travail des personnels de l’éducation nationale* (Barometer of workplace well-being among staff in the national education system).

In the field of health, the DREES published an unprecedented study on “health literacy” in mainland France and its overseas departments and regions using the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS). Returning to the skills and knowledge that a person requires in order to access, understand, assess and use the information necessary for their health, health literacy is an important aspect in combating social health inequalities. The DREES also carried out an original study in this area, combining several statistical sources to examine the links between air pollution and health inequalities among young children, depending on the standard of living of their household.

In the field of security, **the Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal Security (SSMSI) under the Ministry of the Interior** amended its annual publication on the victims of sexism, publishing four separate studies offering a better description of the scope of physical and sexual violence, and thereby developing a deeper understanding of the profiles of victims and perpetrators. These studies included, in 2023, publications on physical violence outside the family and non-marital violence within the family, with two further publications to follow on marital violence and sexual violence outside the family.

In December 2023, the initial results of the first edition of the survey entitled “*Vécu et ressenti en matière de sécurité*” (Experiences and perceptions of security – VRS) were also released. In addition to the subject areas already covered by the CVS survey on living conditions and security, which the former replaces, new areas were also added: moral harassment, violating rights of personality, discrimination; specific analyses of domestic violence, crimes in the digital world, acts committed on public transport; exposure to delinquency and police presence. The first study published relates to national statistics, but information broken down by size of urban unit and for priority urban districts (QPV) under the policy have already been established. Works are currently in progress to produce local and departmental indicators and the results for the subject-specific part of this survey on the interactions between the internal security forces and the population. **The Statistics and Studies Sub-Directorate (SDESE), the MSO for the Ministry of Justice**, for its part, conducted a range of studies on, for example, protection orders against domestic violence, racist crimes, human trafficking, and squatting.

In the fields of education and youth, the DEPP produced awaited analyses in late 2023 of the results of the 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and the International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS), in which France participated for the first time, and which relates to civil and citizenship knowledge of students aged 13-14. It also measured the digital skills of students upon leaving secondary school for the first time, while the SIES looked at the careers of graduates whose financial situation was considered to be precarious in 2014. Lastly, **the National Institute of Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP), the MSO for the ministries responsible for youth, community life and sports**, used the AJEC survey on the activities of young people outside of school (*enquête sur les activités des jeunes en dehors du collège*), carried out together with

the DEPP, to analyse the way in which secondary school pupils spend their school holidays depending on their social background.

Environmental issues also led to a series of enhanced or updated insights. For the SDES, new projects were carried out on various topics, including, in particular, the quality of surface water, the perception of environmental risks, imports of raw materials targeted by the national imported deforestation strategy, CO2 emissions linked to travel and France's contribution to the deterioration of our planet. The MSO for justice looked into the contentious issue of the environment, while the DGFIP's Department for Fiscal Studies and Statistics dedicated one of its publications to the energy transition tax credit (*crédit d'impôt transition énergétique* – CITE) and the **Department of Statistics and Foresight Analysis, the MSO for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food**, published analyses of the use of plant protection products in viticulture and arboriculture, and the quality of meals in contract catering. In an edition of *Insee Références* released in late February 2024, this department also issued an overview of the changes that have taken place in agriculture and food consumption, including an analysis of the environmental challenges and disparities in income and standards of living in farming households.

Citizen involvement in community life was the subject of insights released by the INJEP based on the results of the ENEAD survey, a national survey of community involvement and contributions, which, for the first time, asked French people about the various forms of this community participation (contributions, memberships, volunteering, etc.). The DESF published a statistical analysis of the contributions and sponsorship reported to the tax authorities by private individuals and companies in the period from 2011 to 2021.

Lastly, in terms of cultural activities, the DEPS published, for the first time in December 2023, general statistics on attendance figures, revenue and number of performances at live events, based on data from ticket sales (see section 2.2.5 below). This is an important step in understanding this cultural sector, which is characterised by its heterogeneity and fragmentation.

## 2.2 Improving structural tools, flagship operations and the Official Statistics system

Technical advances and the use of new data sources enabled the Official Statistical Service to continue its work to overhaul or add to several of its major statistical mechanisms and tools in 2023, the aim of which was to produce more detailed information more quickly, where required. The French Official Statistics Authority welcomes these essential contributions to modernising and enriching the sources of Official Statistics.

### 2.2.1 The flagship operations seeking to improve the gathering of information and its use for statistical purposes

2023 saw the updating of some of the Official Statistics mechanisms and the creation of new databases for statistical purposes through the use of administrative reports and reconciliation of various information sources.

#### 2.2.1.1 Key developments made to the major mechanisms currently in place

The population census underwent several developments in 2023. As the new questions introduced into the individual census form led to discussions with the CNIL, INSEE sent it a request in October 2023 for an examination of the regulatory texts governing the population census, as regards, in particular, the addition of a question about parents' place of birth. The aim of this information is to

produce additional elements to be used to examine individual trajectories, situational inequalities, and discrimination beyond first-generation immigration. Requests for the introduction of new questions (relating to health and remote working) were considered legitimate by the CNIL, subject to methodological precautions, restrictions in terms of dissemination and paying particular attention to the potential future reconciliation of personal data.

The ergonomics of the online census questionnaire for the 2024 survey was also modernised, so as to ensure it is accessible to all users and suitable for all platforms. Following an application from La Poste (the French postal service), a pilot was also run in 2022 and 2023, in which postal workers collected the survey, and proved to be satisfactory. This is set to be continued in 2024 before being fully rolled out.

As several users have asked for quicker publication of the population estimates based on the census, INSEE considered various scenarios and a CNERP (National Population Census Evaluation Committee) working group now needs to discuss the methodological changes required for this swifter publication and the consequences that these changes may have. The group's report is expected in 2024, and potential changes are expected to be implemented by 2026.

In terms of sending census data to Eurostat, population data referenced to a 1 km grid was produced for the first time in late 2022 and sent by INSEE. The production of grid-based census data is the result of key methodological work set to be continued in an effort to meet the needs of the future ESOP regulation (see section 1.3.2 above).

The ERFS survey on tax and social income gave rise to an overhaul of the indicators issued in November 2023, following an update to the *enquête Emploi* (Labour Force Survey) questionnaire in 2021, in accordance with the European Regulation on social statistics. The survey protocol was also updated to provide the option of responding to repeat interviews over the internet. The methods for weighting and correcting non-responses were revised. These changes had an impact on the main indicators for standards of living, inequalities and poverty. In order to reconstruct long series, the impact of these changes on various indicators was assessed, with a view to proposing consistent historical series. The data for the 2020 and 2021 editions were published with "provisional" status and will be given final validation following the survey for 2022.

Tourism statistics were audited by the INSEE Internal Audit Unit and its report and recommendations were presented to the French Official Statistics Authority in 2022. These recommendations included repositioning these statistics in line with regional, national and international needs and expanding the range of sources used so as to better cover the field of tourism while limiting the associated costs. To achieve these objectives, it seemed necessary to strengthen the role played by INSEE. The Institute therefore drew up an action plan in which it proposed appointing, from within its number, a national agent to provide the recommended coordination, simplifying the *Enquête de fréquentation dans les hébergements collectifs de tourisme* (collective tourist accommodation occupancy survey) and continuing its investigations to improve estimates of international tourism. This action plan was gradually rolled out over the course of 2023: INSEE began its efforts to refocus on producing framing data and progress was made in the dissemination of information and studies on tourism, based on both surveys and various administrative sources. The publication of tourism satellite accounts for 2021 was accompanied by the release of a blog entry on the weighting of tourism in the economy. Lastly, the publication of the tourist season balance sheet was brought forward to the end of September 2023. An update on the progress of this action plan was presented to the French Official Statistics Authority in November 2023.

### 2.2.1.2 Improving statistical sources through the collecting and processing of administrative data

In the field of culture, 2023 saw the introduction of a key innovation in the use by Official Statistics of the live event ticket sales information system (SIBIL), created in 2018 under Article 48 of the Freedom of Creation, Architecture and Heritage Act. This is a legal system for the centralised digital reporting of ticket sale data, designed as the national reference point for information on attendance figures and overall revenue from ticket sales. The data collected is processed by the DEPS, the statistical service of the Ministry of Culture, in compliance with statistical confidentiality and any other confidentiality requirements specified by law, thereby guaranteeing that they remain confidential. The roll-out of the system, which should have covered all live event contractors from April 2020, was delayed by the health crisis. In 2023, the system was ramped up and now includes over 2500 reporting organisations. The DEPS supplemented the system with a data exchange agreement with the *Centre national de la musique* (National Music Centre – CNM) and the *Association pour le soutien du théâtre privé* (Private Theatre Support Association – ASTP), thereby providing access to declarations from organisations that owe tax for their events. It was therefore possible to establish initial indicators for live event ticket sales in 2022, produced using these three sources. These indicators were then published in December 2023 (see section 2.1.3 above).

In the field of agriculture, the Department of Statistics and Foresight Analysis is piloting the work carried out by the CNIS “Prophyl” scheme working group (plant protection products in software). Following an interim report published in April 2023, a pilot scheme was planned for 2024 in the hope of gathering data on the use of plant protection products (PPPs) recorded in the parcel management software. Preparations for this pilot were carried out over the course of 2023 with the main software publishers on the market. Outside of its value in terms of statistics, this pilot should make it possible to build an IT infrastructure that is capable of retrieving and storing external data flows by obtaining the informed consent of farmers. In the medium term, the development of the “Prophyl” scheme could feed into the centralised register on the use of PPPs, which is planned in the draft European Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR) currently being discussed.

In the area of at-risk children, the DREES has, since January 2023, been responsible for the national individual longitudinal child protection observation mechanism (OLINPE), which had previously been under the responsibility of the National Observatory for the Protection of Children (ONPE). The aim of this database is to collect administrative data on individuals from departmental councils and local authorities with special status responsible for child welfare services. This source seeks to establish greater understanding of minors and young adults who receive support from child welfare services, in particular by producing information on the trajectories of these children. By using a range of data matching operations, this database should be enriched with information on their living conditions (health, schooling, etc.), and on their trajectories once they leave the child protection system, in particular in terms of their professional integration. The first efforts to collect information were started in June 2023 and will be continued in early 2024, with work being undertaken to improve the participation rate of local authorities, as well as the completeness and quality of the data provided.

The DREES has also used several, generally matched, administrative sources to improve its options when it comes to using statistics in the social and medical-social fields. In the social sphere, work was continued in 2023 to consolidate and process data on individuals concerning the trajectories of beneficiaries of the *revenu de solidarité active* (minimum statutory income – RSA) taken from departmental councils, the *Caisse nationale des allocations familiales* (National Family Benefits Fund – CNAF), the *Mutualité sociale agricole* (agricultural mutual benefit fund – MSA) and the *Pôle Emploi* employment agency. The initial results and data on individuals from these reconciliation processes,

which relates to the period from 2017 to 2020, will be released in early 2024. The second wave, which covers the 2021-2022 period, was collected in 2023 and will be released in Spring 2024. In terms of loss of independence, the collecting of individual reporting data on public care schemes also began in 2023. This database seeks to gather information on individuals relating to all services provided on the basis of a disability, loss of independence or incapacity, in particular by departmental councils, *Assurance maladie* (the French health insurance agency) and the CNAF. With wider coverage, it is set to replace the individual reporting operations already carried out in the past by the DREES in relation to certain services.

The ever increasing use of the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN) is also making it possible to simplify survey mechanisms, to expand the coverage of statistical information to include populations that are more difficult to reach and to reduce production time frames, while also helping with the consistency of the statistics produced. The statistical databases developed from the use of the DSN also open up the possibility of monitoring on a longitudinal basis and analyses into various subject areas, first and foremost the dynamics of integration and employment, as well as the monitoring of the trajectories of the unemployed and beneficiaries of social incomes.

The DARES, for example, deployed the DSN for numerous operations in 2023, including using the apprenticeship statistical information system created in 2021 to monitor these contracts, which, thanks to information on contract terminations contained in the DSN, provides a more accurate estimate of the number of apprentices. Using the DSN has also made it possible to replace the surveys on those leaving various integration schemes, including professional training contracts, integration through economic activity (IAE), and subsidised contracts. However, as subsidised contracts and the integration through economic activity scheme are not fully included in the DSN, it was necessary to match this information with other administrative data to produce the expected statistical information. Furthermore, joint work was also required to identify collective agreements in the DSN so as to establish breakdowns of employment estimates per professional sector. Statistical information on working hours, and in particular overtime, was also improved and enriched, and efforts were made to accelerate its availability.

In addition to this individual example, a report from the INSEE Internal Audit Unit and the Inspectorate General for Social Affairs published on April 2023 offered very useful findings regarding the main ways in which the DSN, having become a key tool, is used in the monitoring of employment, professional integration, remuneration and payrolls for statistical purposes and to guide public initiatives at various levels. As regards the use of the DSN for statistical purposes, the report notes the key role played by the Official Statistical Service in terms of “qualifying” the data from these declarations (taking errors or corrections into consideration, translating administrative headings into statistical concepts, etc.), which it does as part of a strengthened cooperative partnership between the DARES, INSEE and Urssaf Caisse nationale (the French Social Security and Family Allowance Contribution Collection Office). It states that the use of the DSN has contributed to greater coordination between the three stakeholders in terms of the economic monitoring of salaried employment, while also recalling the need for these links to be deepened, in terms of structural monitoring and statistical analysis of labour remuneration and its component parts.

The report from the audit units also highlights the statistical value of the DSN in the implementation of longitudinal monitoring and in-depth analyses of integration and employment pathways. However, it only briefly mentions a range of other uses that have been initiated or considered by the Official Statistical Service in various sectors, for example, for the purposes of conducting a comparative or evolving analysis of the employment and remuneration conditions in specific fields of activity, often closely linked with the public sector. It is, for example, particularly important for the

Official Statistical Service to use the DSN to develop coordinated analyses of non-profit employment, both overall and in certain specific areas of activity (sports, culture, medical-social, etc.).

Following the audit hearing, the French Official Statistics Authority highlighted the key value it sees in coordinating these statistical uses so as to guarantee the quality, relevance and interpretability of the statistics produced. As identified in the audit, upscaling the use of the DSN by incorporating the civil service in 2022 has now made it possible to take a key step forward in terms of standardising concepts, methods, processes and production, and even to consider, in the long term, unifying the databases created for statistical purposes. The French Official Statistics Authority also sees value in completing and furthering the assessment and prospects associated with these current and planned uses as part of a collective and coordinated approach between the producers of official statistics, thereby promoting enriched and pooled uses. It also believes that it is vital to develop the uses of the DSN for the purposes of guiding public policy in a way that is consistent with the processing operations carried out for statistical purposes, which will require the DARES to be given a pivotal role.

#### 2.2.1.3 New statistical databases resulting from matching operations carried out under the aegis of the Official Statistical Service

There are several areas of statistics activity that deal with the creation of enriched databases based on matching operations, which have become easier thanks to the possibilities of using the DSN for statistical purposes and the creation, in 2022, of the Non-Identifying Statistical Code (*Code statistique non signifiant* – CSNS), which enables the various component parts of the Official Statistical Service to reconcile data on individuals more securely and easily.

For example, in order to monitor the professional integration of students, the SIES, the MSO for the ministry responsible for higher education and research, rolled out the InserSup information system in 2023, which makes it possible to produce indicators on professional integration of those leaving higher education, broken down by establishment and course, in accordance with the 2018 “Student Orientation and Success” Law. To produce these indicators, the data from the student monitoring information system (*système d’information du suivi de l’étudiant* – SISE) were matched with the DSNs using the CSNS provided by INSEE. This mechanism is set to replace the professional integration surveys conducted by the SIES among universities and schools, which should make it possible to broaden the range of qualifications monitored, to observe the integration of those leaving education without a qualification and to improve the quality of statistics on learning in higher education.

Regarding job seekers and beneficiaries of statutory minimum incomes, in 2023, the DARES used the initial results of the MiDAS statistical matching project (*Minima sociaux, Droits d’Assurance-chômage et parcours Salariés* – statutory minimum incomes, unemployment insurance rights and trajectories of employees), carried out using exhaustive data on individuals from Pôle Emploi, the CNAF and the DSN for the period from 2017 to 2021. 2023 also saw waves 2 and 3 of the MiDAS project, enabling the monitoring of individual trajectories to be extended to June 2023. The information resulting from this matching project is now undergoing an in-depth assessment in the hope of using it instead of the source that was historically used for publications on the job seekers allowance. Major planned studies are also expecting to use this scheme, primarily the work to assess the 2019 unemployment insurance reform. This reference source will also be used to assess the zero long-term unemployment regions pilot as provided for in the Law of 14 December 2022 and then to examine the renewed support for beneficiaries of the RSA associated with the establishment of France Travail.

Lastly, another major new statistical matching project, run by the SSMSI and the statistical service of the Ministry of Justice, looks at the longitudinal monitoring of criminal proceedings. Presented to the

CNIS, this project seeks to address a recommendation made by the French Official Statistics Authority in 2022. The work that began in the summer of 2023 in close collaboration between the two MSOs aims to organise this statistical monitoring from the moment the crimes are observed by the police or gendarmerie until the eventual sentencing of their perpetrator(s).

## 2.2.2 Key structural tools for the Official Statistical Service

2023 saw the completion of the work necessary to revise the French Classification of Activities (NAF) and work also continued on two major projects that INSEE has been carrying out for several years with a view to increasing openness and sharing with the various component parts of the Official Statistical Service.

### 2.2.2.1 Revision of the French Classification of Activities (NAF)

The revision of the French Classification of Activities (NAF) was carried out following the revision of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE), which was undertaken in 2019 following the UN decision to revise the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC). In accordance with Community regulations, the NAF should fit strictly within the NACE, which itself comes from the ISIC.

The work to draft the NAF 2025 began in 2022, after the adoption of the new NACE structure by the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC). A CNIS working group led the work, with a call for proposals for the creation of “sub-classes” in the nomenclature having been set up to bring together the NAF users. Using a shared analysis grid, this investigation involved 20 sector-based sub-groups under the leadership of the Official Statistical Service managers and each comprising the stakeholders affected. For example, the DEPS, the Ministerial Statistical Office for the Ministry of Culture, played a pivotal role in the discussions regarding the nomenclatures (NACE and NAF) applicable in the cultural sector, in particular by coordinating the consultations held with the ministry directorates and professional organisations; the INJEP, the Ministerial Statistical Office for the ministry responsible for sport, also relayed these consultations to the stakeholders within its field of expertise.

The NAF 2025 plan was adopted by INSEE in December 2023 and will be subject to Eurostat approval in early 2024. Its entry into force is planned from 2025 onwards, firstly in the business registers, before being gradually rolled out to all statistical productions.

### 2.2.2.2 Progress for the RÉSIL programme

INSEE has been working for many years on a major structural project that will benefit all official statistics. This involves developing a statistical directory of individuals and housing, known as the RÉSIL, updated using a range of information sources. In 2022, a consultation group was organised under the aegis of the CNIS, with the primary purpose of examining the project’s conditions of social acceptability. Preparatory work continued in 2023. The regulatory texts and the assessment of their impact as regards data protection were submitted to the CNIL, which gave its approval while recalling the value of the consultation work conducted. In June 2023, the CNIS Demographics and Social Issues Committee issued a favourable opinion for the draft decree and set out a list of necessary resources. The decree establishing the automatic processing of personal data, known as RÉSIL, was published in January 2024.

From a technical perspective, IT developments continued, as did the testing to optimise the matching methods and statistical processing used to estimate or correct the directory's coverage bias.

2024 is intended to be a “dress rehearsal” year for the RÉSIL programme with entry into service planned for 2025.

### 2.2.2.3 The new survey structure

For several years, INSEE has been working to gradually introduce a new household survey structure with a view to developing the multi-modal ways in which information is collected, i.e. through multiple channels (face to face, telephone, internet, etc.). This project, for the benefit of the entire Official Statistical Service, seeks to streamline the design and management process for surveys by controlling their costs through the pooling of the tools used to conduct them.

The *Enquête Logement* (housing survey), which is currently being carried out, is one of the milestones in the implementation of this new survey structure. The technical and methodological investments made in this regard must be beneficial for the entire procedure for household surveys, from the moment they transition to this new data collection method.

The SSP, the Ministerial Statistical Office for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, has shown a particular interest in the project and offered to contribute to its development. This work will make it possible to consider extending this new structure to the business surveys, the principle behind which was agreed in spring 2023.

### 2.2.3 Development of both technical and subject-specific collaborative and pooling efforts within the Official Statistical Service

The development of technical and subject-specific cooperative and pooling efforts, between the MSOs and with INSEE, is a way of enriching data, sharing methods and disseminating concepts and approaches developed by Official Statistics.

The INSEE Internal Audit Unit looked at these potential pooling opportunities within the Official Statistical Service and the resulting report was presented to the French Official Statistics Authority in November 2023. The audit highlighted the large number of aspects covered by these pooling opportunities, and the key role of the major operations and structural instruments mentioned above in this regard, as well as, more broadly, the standardisation of methods, benchmarks and statistical tools enacted by INSEE for the benefit of the entire Official Statistical Service, for which the coordination activities fall to INSEE. This pooling plan, developed under the aegis of INSEE, also covers the legal information and coordination associated with statistical processes, the drafting of the Official Statistical Service quality strategy, international coordination, methodological support and advice, and any provision of tailored services.

In this regard, the French Official Statistics Authority encouraged the Official Statistical Service to look at the bigger picture and prioritise a more coordinated implementation of these pooled services, so that there will be more opportunities to develop, distribute and benefit from the standardised statistical practices in the public sphere.

The work carried out in relation to the statistical use of the DSN has and will continue to be of great importance here. For example, the system for information on civil servants (SIASP) used to monitor staff numbers and their remuneration will change following the transition to the DSN, which was completed in the public sector in 2022. As this opens up the possibility of using a single source for

statistics on employment and activity income in the long term, work is being carried out to update and validate the indicators associated with three civil service functions as part of a group organised under the aegis of INSEE with the MSOs concerned (the DEPP, the DREES, the MSOs for the civil service, local authorities and defence).

The Authority did, however, note that the pooling operations carried out within the Official Statistical Service go beyond merely sharing tools and methods developed by INSEE, and incorporate a multifaceted series of pooling actions that enable approaches to be developed based on a “joint statistical culture” and strengthen the position of the Official Statistical Service within its environment. These pooling actions therefore also relate to subject-specific approaches or outputs developed by one or more of the component parts of the Official Statistical Service and shared with one or more others.

This is, for example, the case for the support provided by the MSO for the ministry responsible for local authorities in the use of local authority accounts broken down by function. This MSO has also carried out a study, together with INSEE, which has made it possible to characterise local public enterprises more effectively.

The same applies as regards the involvement of the Department for Fiscal Studies and Statistics of the DGFIP in various operations, including the database on income of healthcare professionals created by the DREES or the INJEP’s projected use of the fiscal data taken from association declarations, taking into account the fact that contributions from private individuals are also directly analysed by the INJEP itself.

INSEE also worked with the DARES to estimate the number of people employed in the area of “personal services”, and with the SSMSI to conduct a regional and national study into burglaries.

Some of these pooled approaches require several MSOs to use the DARES surveys on working conditions. This is the case, for example, with the DEPP or the SDESSI of the DGAFP in relation to working conditions in the civil service. The SDESSI also uses the DREES “*Modes de garde*” [childcare] survey to describe the childcare conditions of children of civil servants.

Joint operations or studies were also carried out between, for example, the INJEP and the DEPP to understand extra-curricular activities and between the DARES and the DREES regarding the use of temporary staff in the hospital sector.

It is important to take all of these operations into account in order to profit from a global overview of the various forms of pooling practices within the Official Statistical Service and to identify areas for development with a view to sharing this progress and fostering the spread of the concepts, methods and approaches promoted by Official Statistics in the public and social debate, a goal that the Authority is very keen to pursue.

### 2.3 Problems highlighted by the French Official Statistics Authority that evolved and therefore required specific responses

There were slightly more specific incidents in 2023 regarding the application of the Code of Practice, requiring a more educational, yet firmer response from the Official Statistical Service and the French Official Statistics Authority. On several occasions over the course of 2023, the Official Statistical Service also issued statements to clarify the handling of certain difficulties encountered during its work (error corrections) and to explain methodological changes made to information released. Responses were also crucial to address certain objections or issues in relation to statistical results published by the Official Statistical Service. Conversely, solutions to structural difficulties identified

by the French Official Statistics Authority in previous reports are in sight. First among these is access by the MSOs to administrative data necessary for them to carry out their activities.

### 2.3.1 Specific incidents that had evolved and which required a more educational, yet firmer response from the Official Statistical Service and the French Official Statistics Authority

In 2023, embargo breaches by the media or public players in relation to statistical publications were more frequent than in 2022, requiring the French Official Statistics Authority to actively consolidate the professional independence of some of the Ministerial Statistical Offices.

In March 2023, an incident occurred with a leading daily newspaper, which was not strictly an embargo breach but could have resembled one. The day before INSEE published statistics on the deficit and public debt for the end of 2022, *Les Échos* released an online article in which a specific figure for the level of public debt was cited, giving the impression that it was referring to this INSEE publication. Although this figure ultimately turned out to be incorrect, this attempt to release information early did not conform to the logic of the rules on the dissemination of essential economic indicators given in the reference framework for the process of disseminating statistical publications issued by the Official Statistical Service adopted in early 2023 and could potentially have had a negative impact on the relationship of trust sought between Official Statistics and the media. The President of the French Official Statistics Authority spoke with the two deputy directors of the newspaper to remind them of the rules in force regarding the dissemination of this information and to request assurance that these rules would be complied with by the newspaper's entire editorial department, and received commitments from both.

In July, an article entitled "*Exclusion : des chiffres à la hausse en 2022 selon l'Insee*" [Exclusion: figures on the rise in 2022 according to INSEE] was published online on the website of the magazine *Actualités sociales hebdomadaires* one hour before the embargo expired. The article included elements of an edition of *Insee Focus* entitled "*La part des personnes en situation de privation matérielle et sociale augmente en 2022*" [The percentage of people living in material and social deprivation increases in 2022]. Following action taken by INSEE, the outlet immediately deleted the article from its website and the associated tweet.

There were also various other embargo breaches in 2023 from ministerial circles. In May, during an interview on CNews, the Minister of Health and Solidarity mentioned the results of a DREES publication entitled "*Les étudiantes en formation d'infirmière sont trois fois plus nombreuses à abandonner en première année en 2021 qu'en 2011*" [Nursing students three times more likely to abandon their studies in their first year in 2021 than in 2011] on the day before it was due to be published. In accordance with the dissemination rules in force within Official Statistics, the embargo was immediately lifted by the DREES director and the publication was released online straight away. The minister's chief of staff also gave the ASP President a commitment that such an incident would not happen again.

In August 2023, the half-yearly figures for foreign trade were announced prematurely by the competent minister during a press conference. As a result, the statistics for the month of June and the second quarter of 2023, produced by the External Trade Statistics and Analyses Division (DSECE) of the Customs Directorate General, were revealed and publicly discussed on the day before their official publication. The ASP President spoke with the minister's chief of staff to complain about this incident in view of the breach of the rules governing the dissemination of essential economic indicators of the Official Statistical Service. The first reminder was given during a telephone call, just after the incident, to get a commitment in principle that this type of failure would not happen again.

A second reminder was then issued during a subsequent conversation, during which clarification was provided regarding the need for a clear distinction between the distribution of statistical indicators and ministerial communication, in accordance with principle 1.6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice. A conversation with the manager of the MSO also took place to discuss the terms to be adopted to prevent such a situation from happening again.

Lastly, in November 2023, the Minister of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion sent the press a message discussing the quarterly statistics on unemployment as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) the day before their official publication. This incident was picked up and reported by the newspaper, *Le Monde*. This incident was even more regrettable because the office of the minister responsible for employment, unlike that of the minister responsible for the economy, was not on the public and restrictive list of those entitled to early access, as laid down in the reference framework for the dissemination of publications issued by the Official Statistical Service. In addition to the single embargo breach by the Ministry of Labour, this incident revealed the difficulty in ensuring governmental compliance with the instructions regarding the non-disclosure of this type of information to the minister directly responsible for the dossier, who is asked for comment following the release of the information. Following an analysis of this incident and an informal discussion with the French Official Statistics Authority, the INSEE Director-General added the office of the Minister of Labour and the DARES (for matters relating to unemployment) and the office of the Minister of Solidarity and the DREES (for poverty indicators) to the official list of people entitled to early access, in addition to the office of the Prime Minister.

The ASP presidency also had to intervene on various occasions in order to safeguard the professional independence of certain Ministerial Statistical Offices, which may have been called into question due to the content and planned timings of some of their publications. Thankfully, though, these instances were few in number. This was the case for the Ministry for Higher Education and Research in relation to the formulation and timelines for the release of certain SIES publications. An in-depth interview with the minister's chief of staff provided an opportunity to issue a reminder of the principles that must be applied to Official Statistics under the Code of Practice, to give a detailed presentation of the reference framework for the process of disseminating statistical publications issued by the Official Statistical Service, and to obtain commitments of compliance from the ministerial managers from this sector.

Another approach, giving rise to a meeting between the ASP President and the office of the Minister of Labour and Employment, was implemented following the Authority's investigation of a report it received as part of a whistleblowing procedure (see section 3.3 below). This meeting was also an opportunity to clarify the transparency conditions that are key to the labelling of job seeker statistics, given the significant quantitative impact that the new registration rules applicable to beneficiaries of the RSA will have by 2025 as specified by the French Full Employment Law (see section 3.4 below).

Such incidents demonstrated the need to regularly, and sometimes repeatedly, inform all points of contact of the framework and regulations that govern how Official Statistics works under law and to provide regular reminders of the principles of professional independence that must be applied, in accordance with the European Statistics Code of Practice and in compliance with the "reference framework for the process of disseminating statistical publications issued by the Official Statistical Service" adopted in early 2023.

### 2.3.2 The need for the Official Statistical Service to communicate clearly and transparently on the occurrence of certain problems or changes to methods

On several occasions over the course of 2023, the Official Statistical Service also had to issue statements to clarify the handling of certain challenges encountered during its work and to explain methodological changes or corrections made to information released, in accordance with principles 6.3 and 6.4 of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

#### 2.3.2.1 Correcting errors reported transparently

In February 2023, upon releasing its publication on disability-free life expectancy at 65 compared with 2021, the DREES looked again at the information published one year earlier for 2020. Readers' attention was drawn to the revised 2020 information in the publication's introductory abstract and in a box explaining the reasons behind this revision and showing the discrepancies between the values as initially published and once revised. For another error, it was possible to perform the correction much more quickly: two DREES publications from the *Études et Résultats* [Studies and Results] collection entitled, "*En France, une personne sur sept de 15 ans ou plus est handicapée, en 2021*" [In France, 1 in 7 people aged 15 or over has a disability, in 2021] and "*9,3 millions de personnes déclarent apporter une aide régulière à un proche en situation de handicap ou de perte d'autonomie en 2021*" [9.3 million people report that they regularly help a close relation with a disability or loss of autonomy in 2021] were republished one week later, with corrected data and an explicit mention of the correction on the corresponding webpage.

In July, a journalist reported a surprising increase in the proportion of deaths in nursing care facilities over the previous few months. The INSEE teams then carried out an in-depth examination of the data and identified an error in the codification of place of death (a mix-up between "nursing care facility, retirement home" and "public health facility") in some of the civil status declarations submitted by local councils. These only related to the place of death for deaths that occurred from December 2022 onwards, and did not affect any other information released. This finding led INSEE to suspend the dissemination of data on place of death and to carry out a subsequent matching operation using death certificates so as to adjust this information.

#### 2.3.2.2 Methodological changes requiring quick and clear explanations

In order to conduct a more accurate, short-term assessment of changes in food consumption over a period marked by inflation, INSEE used food retail scanner data and turnover figures from specialist shops, as of the September 2023 monthly publication on consumption spending, and then the initial estimate of the national accounts for the third quarter of 2023, which was issued in late October. This change in method, which, without questioning the diagnosis of an unprecedented drop, led to a significant upward adjustment in consumption of food products observed since mid-2021, was reported briefly in the two issues of *Informations rapides*, documents supporting the publication of this information. The consequences of these changes on total household consumption and, to a more limited extent, on GDP, gave rise to various doubts and questions expressed on social media, in so far as they invalidated the most negative changes expected by certain forecasters. The detailed explanation of the reasons and methodology for these changes was only given a little later in late November 2023, via an article published on the *INSEE blog* under the title "*La consommation alimentaire diminue : oui mais de combien?*" [Food consumption is dropping: yes, but by how much?]. These explanations brought an end to these doubts.

### 2.3.3 Crucial responses to certain objections or issues in relation to current statistical results

More generally, and independently of any methodological changes, the Official Statistical Service is regularly challenged on the way in which some key indicators are produced, specifically those associated with issues most closely linked to the current economic and social situation. In a period of inflationary tension and economic downturn, these challenges primarily related to estimates of GDP and consumption, as well as changes in consumer prices and household purchasing power, along with the legal population figures established based on the censuses and published in December 2023.

The explanations given in the metadata provided online and increasingly included in detail in the *INSEE blog* are therefore key elements in responding to these objections and providing clarifications to the media, for which verified figures are key in order to break down fake news. For example, in 2023, the blog featured, in particular, notes entitled “Shrinkflation, *“effet qualité”, évolution de l’offre de produits : comment l’Insee mesure-t-il le juste prix ?*” [Shrinkflation, “quality effect”, changes in products on offer: how does INSEE measure fair prices?], “*Mesurer l’évolution des salaires à court terme : une palette d’indicateurs statistiques complémentaires*” [Measuring short-term changes in wages: a range of complementary statistics], “*Le PIB reste-t-il un indicateur pertinent ?*” [Is GDP still a relevant indicator?], or even “*Dis-moi ce que tu consommes, je te donnerai ton empreinte carbone : un exercice crucial mais piégeux*” [Tell me what you consume and I’ll give you your carbon footprint: a key but demanding exercise], providing valuable insights into some necessarily complex statistical indicators.

Although the technical content of these informative articles makes it possible to reach an informed audience, it is not as easy to respond to objections that are sometimes confused or controversial, and which therefore require specific responses.

In February 2023 for example, on issues of inflation, a Cnews journalist mixed up general inflation and food inflation, giving the impression that the figures published by INSEE were incorrect. The Director-General’s office manager therefore wrote a letter to the channel’s managing editor suggesting a clearer distinction be used between the general average for an indicator and the general average of one of its components.

The assessments produced by INSEE and included in its economic outlook reports in relation to margins achieved by agri-food industries were also contested by some of its representatives, and then brought before the National Assembly. While these discussions can be explained by the sensitivity in the public debate towards the causes of the increase in food prices, it would have been desirable, from the perspective of the French Official Statistics Authority, if these had been preceded by technical reconciliations. Thanks to their respective coverage and level of observation, these would have made it possible to explain the differences between the assessments drawn from the national accounts and the estimates used by industry players.

Objections about the population statistics were particularly strong in Mayotte over the course of 2023, given the context of migratory tension, with one Member of Parliament deeming that INSEE had considerably underestimated its figures compared with what she held to be accurate. However, INSEE used several means to validate its estimates, basing its figures on, for example, consumption of certain products (such as rice) compared to that of other regions such as Réunion or Comoros, and presented them in a blog article (see Annual Report of the French Official Statistics Authority 2022, section 2.3.3). In May 2023, the INSEE Director-General sent a letter to the Member of Parliament responding to her claims, explaining again the methodology used and making reference to

compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice, which guarantees the independence and neutrality of its work.

More generally, including in mainland France, the distribution of the legal populations at the end of 2023 led to some fairly strong reactions over the year, in particular from mayors who viewed these assessments as unfavourable. The calculation of these legal populations, which differs between municipalities depending on whether they have populations of below or over 10,000 inhabitants based on the method followed for the population census, is above all subject to criticism associated with the time taken to publish the results: published in late 2023, the legal populations as at 1 January 2021 therefore serve as regulatory and budgetary reference points for 2024, which may lead to confusion or even dissatisfaction among some Members of Parliament given the recent movements that they have experienced. Their reports, monitored by the National Population Census Evaluation Committee (CNERP), led INSEE to regularly provide detailed explanations about how it calculates the population and the changes observed, and, at times, to create more in-depth analyses together with the municipality.

Providing suitable responses to each of these issues, including via the media and social networks, is, from the ASP's perspective, of particular importance for Official Statistics, which must be both transparent and avoid controversies that would call into question its neutrality or credibility.

The final type of objection can take the form of legal recourse, which requires specific attention and follow-up. One example of this is the 2021 referral by the association "Ouvre-boîte" to the administrative court, requesting the release of the detailed elements that are used to establish the consumer price index (CPI). The association requested the annulment of an INSEE decision refusing to make certain detailed elements used to produce this indicator public. The court found in favour of INSEE, similarly to the Commission for Access to Administrative Documents (CADA), which had heard the case beforehand, except in relation to the communication of the values of the 30,000 elementary indices for agglomeration categories and the weightings used in calculating the CPI and therefore ordered that the source codes be shared, unlike in the CADA opinion. INSEE implemented the decision of the administrative court, except as regards communicating the values of the elementary indices, which it challenged in an appeal before the Council of State, invoking the principle of statistical confidentiality applicable to this information. As the "Ouvre-boîte" association also lodged an appeal, the investigation is due to start soon, as part of legal proceedings that Official Statistics will be required to follow closely, in particular as they concern principle 5.1 of the European Statistics Code of Practice regarding statistical confidentiality.

## 2.4 Solutions to structural difficulties are in sight

For some of the structural difficulties identified by the French Official Statistical Authority in its previous reports, solutions are in sight, however. This is, for example, the case for the updating and reorganisation of statistical services monitored by the French Official Statistics Authority following general audits, continuation of the catch-up and update processes for cause of death statistics, and access for Ministerial Statistical Offices, in particular those of defence and internal security, to the administrative data required for them to perform their activities. Furthermore, the ASP believes that efforts to make administrative data available to researchers for research and study purposes should be accelerated, while also preserving the powers and operating method of the Statistical Confidentiality Committee.

#### 2.4.1 The updating and reorganisation of statistical services monitored by the French Official Statistics Authority following general audits

The specific, long-term monitoring performed by the Authority primarily relates to the ministerial areas of defence and justice (see Annual Report of the French Official Statistics Authority 2022, section 2.4.2). In 2023, the recommendations resulting from the joint audits carried out by INSEE's Internal Audit Unit and other ministerial audit units and from statements made by the Authority following a hearing were or are expected to be implemented, as shown during a hearing with the head of the MSO for defence in June 2023 and the presentation of the action plan for the MSO for justice to the ASP presidency in August.

In June 2023, the Authority held a hearing with the head of the MSO for defence of the Ministry for the Armed Forces (formerly the Economic Observatory for Defence – OED), in the presence of the head of the Financial Affairs Directorate to which the MSO is attached. This hearing took place following a reorganisation, which itself followed the joint audit of INSEE's Internal Audit Unit and the General Inspectorate of the Armed Forces carried out in 2020-2021 and a statement adopted by the Authority in September. The shortcomings identified by this audit and recalled in the statement were taken into consideration and a series of solutions was implemented. The MSO, now incorporated into the **Sub-Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies (S2E)**, increased its visibility and capacity for internal dialogue. As the findings showed shortcomings in the management of the MSO and a failure to compile user needs, a ministerial committee for statistical information (CoMIS) was set up to promote dialogue between producers and users, compile the various needs, validate the department's work programme and ensure it had access to the data required. The lack of resources highlighted by the audit is gradually being addressed and the MSO is now able to meet the MSO charter and produce statistics that comply with the European Statistics Code of Practice. The French Official Statistics Authority wanted to extend and confirm these actions, in particular as regards the cross-cutting nature of the office's position and the pursuit of coordination across all statistical production within the Ministry for the Armed Forces. It also recommended that work to use external sources, and in particular the Nominative Social Declaration, be resolutely continued and that a discussion take place with a view to achieving a broad consultation for users outside the ministry.

The ASP hearing held in November 2022 with the Statistics and Studies Sub-Director of the Ministry of Justice, accompanied by the secretary-general of the ministry, showed the desire of these managers to make progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the joint report of the general audit units of the Ministry of Justice and INSEE issued in February 2022, and followed by a statement from the ASP in May 2022. The action plan presented in August 2023 began to address these attempts, confirming the ministry's desire to strengthen the position of statistics by creating a new organisation, geared towards a broader offer of services, greater reactivity to take on new projects and streamlined collaboration with operational directorates. The MSO's professional independence was integrated into the decree organising the Secretariat-General. It strengthened its human resources by creating numerous positions, including one specifically for the project to match data on criminal proceedings held by the Ministries of the Interior and Justice, so as to have a longitudinal view of these procedures (see section 2.2.1.3). Plans are also in place to update the editorial policy and to strengthen links with research through the creation of a research mission, the hosting of researchers and the organisation of a seminar. Following a recommendation from the French Official Statistics Authority regarding the value in pursuing a discussion with a view to achieving a more visible and cross-cutting position for this MSO, a decision was taken in late 2023 to change its status from a sub-directorate to a department directly attached to the Secretariat-General.

## 2.4.2 Continuing efforts to catch up with and update cause of death statistics

The difficulties encountered with cause of death statistics, which, for a time, meant France was failing to meet its European statistics obligations, were broadly elaborated on in the Authority's previous two reports (see Annual Report 2021 section 2.3.2 and Annual Report 2022 section 2.4.3). An initial hearing in December 2022 with the project managers at both the INSERM's Centre for Epidemiology on the Medical Causes of Death (CépiDc) and the DREES led the French Official Statistics Authority to suspend the renewal of the labelling of these statistics until all the initiatives planned to catch up with the production delay and to establish conditions to ensure permanent operation of production had been implemented.

In January 2024, during another hearing with those responsible for these statistics, in the presence of the DREES Director, the chair of the project steering committee, the Authority noted and welcomed the key progress that had been made.

As regards the years 2018 and 2019, for which death statistics had not been established, work was carried out to impute the figures and therefore enabled the CépiDc to send provisional data to Eurostat and to work with the DREES to share these results in January 2023. The methods used were recorded in a document included in the *DREES Méthodes* collection in March 2023. The final results for 2018 and 2019 were then sent to Eurostat in September. The data on individuals for 2020 was also made available to users of the SNDS (National Health Data System).

The statistics for 2021 were established and released before the end of December 2023. Collaboration between the DREES, the INSERM's CépiDc and *Santé publique France* led to the joint and simultaneous publication of two studies, one in the DREES *Etudes et Résultats* collection and the other in the *Bulletin épidémiologique hebdomadaire* [Weekly epidemiology bulletin] published by *Santé publique France*.

This progress has now enabled France to meet its obligations vis-à-vis the European Union, and the "catch up" phase recommended in April 2021 by the joint audit carried out by the Inspectorate General for Education, Sport and Research (IGÉSR), the Inspectorate General for Social Affairs (IGAS) and the INSEE Internal Audit Unit can now be considered to have been achieved.

Nevertheless, the French Official Statistics Authority felt it would be sensible to build on the progress achieved in 2024, by continuing efforts to reduce production time frames such that the cause of death statistics can be as useful as possible for public health policies. Improvements are also required in the matching operations carried out for the purposes of establishing the National Health Data System (SNDS), of which the cause of death database forms an integral part. These improvements must be made on the basis of improved IT collaboration between INSEE and the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM).

In the area of governance, while the Authority welcomed the creation of a permanent strategic committee to follow the previous steering committee, it did, however, note that achieving permanent statistical production of this magnitude would require further progress in two key areas: multi-year assurance of sufficient human and financial resources for the project and the provision of IT applications and resources that are accessible for the statisticians and suitable for large-scale statistical production channels.

Given these elements and if project progress continues as planned, the Authority believes that a technical dossier on the relabelling of cause of death statistics could be opened for investigation by the Label Committee from the end of 2024. The relabelling itself would require the two conditions above to be met in order to be effectively guaranteed (see section 3.4 below).

#### 2.4.3 MSO access to the administrative data required to perform activities

2023 also saw the achievement of solutions to the difficulties in accessing administrative data mentioned in the Authority's previous report (see Annual Report 2022 section 2.4.4).

At the Ministry for the Armed Forces, the creation of a ministerial committee for statistical information (CoMIS) enabled the MSO to access the data required to perform the studies it had planned in its work programme.

The SSMSI, under the Ministry for Internal Security, was blocked in its attempts to access detailed data created by the national gendarmerie, in particular data relating to ongoing proceedings. This block was motivated by legal discussions on the scope of the provisions of Article 11 of the French Code of Criminal Procedure on secrecy in relation to investigations. An amendment to the draft law providing guidance and planning for the Ministry of Justice for the 2023-2027 period was initially submitted by the senators as a means of considering a legislative solution to provide this access.

The Ministry of Justice therefore led an interministerial project with the Ministries of the Interior and of Economy and Finance seeking to ensure the adoption, sought by the Prime Minister's offices, of a doctrine establishing the feasibility of this access under current legislation. In October 2023, the President of the French Official Statistics Authority received an official note from the Minister of the Interior's chief of staff confirming that "under current substantive law, there are no legal barriers attached to the secrecy obligations associated with investigations or inquiries preventing the SSMSI from accessing the data relating to ongoing cases". This note specifies that Article 7 bis of the Law of 7 June 1951 on Legal Obligation, Coordination and Confidentiality in the Field of Statistics effectively authorises access by MSOs to data covered by professional secrecy, and that there is no legislative intention therein to exclude secrecy of investigations.

This provision also covers the access needs of statisticians of the Ministry of Justice for the purposes of a structural project to re-establish longitudinal statistics on the penal system implemented jointly by the two MSOs for which guaranteed, legally secure access to data on proceedings, covered by statistical confidentiality, was a prior condition.

With this difficulty having been removed, the senatorial amendment was withdrawn and the project start could be planned for late 2023 (see section 2.2.1.3 above).

#### 2.4.4 Clarifying the possibilities of re-disseminating data reprocessed by official statisticians to its original government departments

During their statistical production work, the MSOs are regularly required to process administrative files of data on individuals to which they have access within their ministries. The ministries' operational directorates may therefore ask the MSOs to retrieve these consolidated and improved files, for steering, management or even control purposes.

This raises the question of whether or not the MSOs are authorised, as part of the services they provide for their government department, to "return" all or some of these files that have been subject to statistical processing and which may, therefore, in some cases, be covered by the rules of statistical confidentiality.

This issue gave rise to a discussion between INSEE and the MSOs in the second half of 2022, with involvement from the presidency of the French Official Statistics Authority. This discussion led to the production of two framework notes drawn up in April 2023 by the Legal Affairs and Litigation Unit (UAJC) and in June by the INSEE Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations

Directorate (DMCSI), respectively. The latter is set to be supplemented over the course of 2024 to include example use cases.

These notes provide key clarifications of the circumstances under which it is possible and practical for the data reprocessed by the MSOs to be redistributed to the government departments. They also highlight the responsibilities incumbent on MSO heads in this area, owing to the nature of the processing operations carried out and the planned use of this data by the requesting government departments.

The possibility of redistributing the data in this way firstly depends on the nature of the processing performed by the MSO. If the MSO has enriched the original data with additional, confidential information, covered by statistical confidentiality, whether through a matching operation or an additional survey, redistribution is not possible, unless the administrative directorate has received a specific exemption. If the enrichment is the result of data gathered directly from the units concerned, redistribution is only possible if the data was gathered for administrative purposes on behalf of the directorate that held the original data. If the data is gathered at the initiative of the MSO and is covered by statistical confidentiality, communication of the data is subject to the provisions of the Law of 1951, i.e. to any alternative system requiring the prior authorisation of the Statistical Confidentiality Committee.

Furthermore, if the MSO has enriched the data via processing operations such as the use of nomenclatures, algorithms or adjustments, it is, in principle, possible to transfer the corrected file to the original government department or another department. This may, however, involve risks, which must be taken into consideration based on the aims of using that corrected file (statistical versus administrative purposes), and, in particular, where the corrections are based on a probabilistic method subject to interpretation.

The Official Statistical Service may be liable depending on how the administrative directorates intend to use these enriched files. This would, in particular, be the case if the files processed for statistical purposes were used for individual decisions relating to physical persons, establishments or companies, which would likely be contested due to the fact that they are based on data reprocessed by the statistical service and not on information resulting directly from the declarations submitted.

To circumvent this problem, it was recommended that the MSOs ensure that the directorate that receives the data via such a redistribution undertakes to use it only for the purposes of statistics, studies or research, and that the commitment be formalised in an agreement. Another option is for the MSO to act as a “contractor” for the requesting directorate, specifying the limits of its intervention as regards the compatibility of this work with its statistical missions.

Here, it was also recommended that, to minimise risks, they differentiate between the two types of files resulting from these processing operations: files established *ad hoc* for the administrative directorate in question and limited only to variables “returned”, and files reserved for official statistical purposes.

These considerations illustrate just how important it has become for the MSOs to combine the expansion of their services offered to the government departments and the full exercise of their responsibilities as component parts of the Official Statistical Service, as noted by the Authority in its statement of January 2021 on the links between official statistics and data policies.

#### 2.4.5 Efforts to make data available to researchers and study teams to be accelerated while preserving the powers and operating method of the Statistical Confidentiality Committee

During the summer of 2023, one Member of Parliament submitted a plan to amend the draft law seeking to bring security and regulation to the digital space (SREN), resulting from the new European Data Governance Act (see section 1 above). The aim of the amendment was to increase the chance of accessing administrative data for the purposes of research, study, and, as specified in its initial wording, “assessing public policies or innovating”.

A system for making protected data available for processing for public-interest research or study purposes already exists in the form of a Statistical Confidentiality Committee notification procedure, established by means of Article 6 bis of the Law of 7 June 1951. The committee may recommend the use of a secure data access procedure guaranteeing appropriate protection, in particular via the Secure Data Access Centre (CASD).

This procedure primarily made it possible to keep up with the increase in the number of requests from researchers and study groups for access to data from the Official Statistical Service and from associated producers such as the CNAF, and to fiscal data. Some MSOs made a simultaneous or alternative choice to feed data into the CNRS Quetelet-Progedo-Diffusion portal, which only allows access to data on individuals with a lower level of detail and does not allow information from various sources to be cross-referenced. Within the ministry responsible for national education, the DEPP is committed to the IDEE (Innovation, Data and Experiments in Education) equipment of excellence project funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR).

The draft amendment mentioned above was subject to discussions as to the extent to which it planned for the Statistical Confidentiality Committee to act as an appeal body in the event that a government department refuses to grant access to the data that it holds. However, it is already possible to appeal to the administrative tribunals once the Commission for Access to Administrative Documents (CADA) has reviewed the case, while the Confidentiality Committee’s governance rules are essentially based on a principle of cooperation with the departments that are data custodians.

As some difficulties in accessing detailed data held by the DEPP led to dissatisfaction among researchers, the directorate has committed to accelerating its policy of opening up and documenting its data, given that, following the hearing in May 2023, the ASP requested that it offer even greater access to its data for researchers seeking additional information from the Secure Data Access Centre (CASD), with a view to standardising practices within the Official Statistical Service.

Following examination by the joint committee, it was determined that, under the draft amendment sent to it in October 2023, the opinion of the Statistical Confidentiality Committee does not entail an obligation to provide data, but that this opinion must be sought where an access request involves matching between multiple databases or the government department that holds that data plans to refuse to grant access. If this provision is adopted, the challenge for the Statistical Confidentiality Committee will be in organising the processing of any additional requests for access using this method, without this disrupting the otherwise satisfactory operation of the access procedures already in place, in particular for statistical and fiscal data.

## 2.5 Current and future progress in the field of governance

The progress made in this area relates to both the adaptation of the texts establishing the responsibilities of the MSOs and the work performed by the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS), which has now drawn up its new work programme for the 2024-2028 period.

### 2.5.1 Adaptation of the texts establishing the responsibilities of the MSOs

The 2021 peer review revealed that some MSOs had still not included a reference to their professional independence or the coordinating role played by INSEE within the Official Statistical Service in the texts establishing their responsibilities or those of the directorates or secretariats-general to which they are attached.

In 2023, several of these texts establishing the responsibilities of the MSOs were amended to include both of the above references, knowing that this request must be extended to all MSOs by 2027. These are regulatory texts governing the missions and responsibilities of the DEPP, the DREES, the DARES and the MSO for justice.

### 2.5.2 Progress in the work of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS)

As is the case every year, the work of the CNIS is organised through its committees and working groups established for this purpose. The preparatory work for the next medium-term period (2024-2028) was also an opportunity to ask users and producers about their medium-term Official Statistics-related needs.

The work of the CNIS working groups continued in various areas: monitoring the use of plant protection products in agriculture, for which a pilot for automated parcel data transfer with volunteer farmers is being planned, with a report to be issued in late 2024; observing and measuring discrimination, for which the working group has completed its hearings and the report is due in mid-2024; the report on the NAF revision was presented to the CNIS Bureau in December 2023 before being sent to Eurostat in the first quarter of 2024 for review. Two new working groups already have a full agenda for 2024: one will look at the consequences for job seeker statistics of the new rules for registering with France Travail specified in the French Full Employment Law. This group had its first meeting in December 2023. The other group will look at abuse of people who are vulnerable due to their age or disability.

Furthermore, as part of the exercise to establish European health statistics priorities, the CNIS relayed two European consultations that have taken place: one with producers and the other with users. A health statistics working group is set to be created in the near future.

In 2023, the work carried out by the CNIS focused on preparing its medium-term agenda for the 2024-2028 period. An assessment of the activities carried out over the last five years was drawn up and then presented to the Authority in December. At this hearing, the French Official Statistics Authority expressed a wish that, during the annual presentation of the CNIS topics for discussion and consideration or as part of a specific exercise, responses to questions and recommendations from CNIS committees and working groups be regularly tracked, in particular as regards their prospects in terms of solutions or concrete projects.

The next medium-term agenda will look at three major areas: reporting on an evolving world; clarifying debates in a complex society; and innovating for the purposes of better understanding needs. Their link with the medium-term opinions discussed within the subject-specific committees

was presented and new subject areas emerged from this consultation, including inflation, remote working, unpaid work, family caregivers, abuse and ill-treatment, water resources, biodiversity and resource moderation, etc.

Following the symposium on “Measuring the ecological transition: economic perspectives” held in May 2023, the CNIS planned to organise two feedback and discussion seminars in 2024: the first in March, to look at the NAF revision, so as to anticipate the impact of the change in nomenclature for users; and the second in April, to look at the challenges for Official Statistics associated with the new CNIS medium-term agenda.

## 2.6 Continuing with and diversifying efforts in the areas of dissemination and communication

The joint reference framework for the process of disseminating statistical publications issued by the Official Statistical Service, established thanks to a working group composed of representatives of the MSOs and members of the INSEE Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations Directorate, was adopted in February 2023 and accompanied by a statement from the ASP recommending that it be implemented as soon as possible. As mentioned in that statement, the ASP has systematically used this reference framework in all its communications with its contacts, in particular ministerial contacts, outside the Official Statistical Service and intends to continue doing so in future.

Improving access to Official Statistics by making it easier and clearer for users is a long-standing yet ever-present concern of the Official Statistical Service and is one of the recommendations issued by peers following the review in 2021.

In addition to the publications relating to the new areas of study and observation (see section 2.1 above), the Official Statistical Service continued its work in 2023 to diversify the ways it makes information available, while also organising public events to highlight the value of Official Statistics and discuss results with government departments and researchers. However, a joint audit report showed that this work must be carried out with citizens in mind so as to guarantee the dissemination of a “statistical culture” for which there is clearly a need for development today.

### 2.6.1 Using innovative means to make information available

Progress continued in 2023 to develop the ways in which the work of the Official Statistical Service is made available using innovative means, focusing on using the *INSEE Blog* to provide explanations on the statistics available, updating the websites and providing interactive tools.

Created in 2020, the INSEE Blog is widely used, as shown by the consultation statistics: almost 800,000 page views since 2020, 220,000 of which were in 2023. Every day, an average of 400 to 500 unique visitors access the blog. Subscriptions increased by 40% in 2023. On average, two articles are published every month. As of mid-December 2023, around 90 articles were available online. The aim of these articles is either to provide insights into the current situation by highlighting the information contributed by the Official Statistical Service, or to present the plans or methods developed within the Official Statistical Service for educational purposes and, at times, to provide responses to various questions about the measurement tools circulating in the press or on social media (see sections 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 above).

The work performed by the Official Statistical Service to improve its communications includes renovating its dissemination lines and supporting webpages. For several years, INSEE has been

updating its information-sharing site through the Melodi project (*Mon espace de livraison en open data à l'Insee* [My INSEE open-data supply area]), the aim of which is to modernise the way in which the Institute provides all its statistical data, which includes around 5000 Excel spreadsheets per year, from around 60 sources. In 2024, new services will be offered to internet users, including a catalogue of data records with an explorer to simplify site navigation and standardisation of centralised metadata in a single repository. This project gave INSEE the opportunity to take another look at the editorial content it offers through the information appearing on the Insee.fr website and to work to make it more consistent. This is part of a wider project to build a data platform connected to a centralised metadata repository known as RMÈS (*Répertoire de métadonnées statistiques* [statistical metadata repository]).

Some of the Official Statistical Service's other websites have also been updated to increase clarity and simplify navigation. In particular, this has been the case for the new website of the Ministry of the Civil Service, which went online in February 2024, and which has better organised and more ergonomic webpages for the MSO. As of 2023, the MSO for defence site has also been renovated following several months of downtime, and the page for the MSO for justice has been developed to include a data visualisation tool.

The Official Statistical Service has already been using data visualisation for several years to improve the presentation of statistical information and is now increasingly using video to facilitate communication.

In April 2023, INSEE provided the general public with a tool for visualising life expectancy indicators accompanied by an educational video providing an explanation. Data visualisation has also been used dynamically for the national indicators used to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the national review that France sent to the UN in July 2023. The MSOs are also pursuing the development of this tool in order to highlight their statistical productions. At the end of July, the DARES uploaded various elements relating to "Jobs in 2030", along with a data visualisation to make it easier to see the main results of the report, for which it has also provided regional breakdowns by job and sector. For the purposes of communicating about key internal security figures, the SSMSI launched an interactive tool that covers various subject areas and indicators aimed at measuring delinquency and security. These figures are taken from both administrative data and statistical surveys, and are regularly updated and enriched.

Another educational tool has been developed over the last few years: the use of video, through an initiative known as *Datagora*, the aim of which is to provide clarifications for the public debate by facilitating the accessibility, understanding and re-use of publications from "reliable" data producers, such as the Official Statistical Service. Thanks to partnerships developed with the MSOs, eight of these were able to use this Datagora initiative in 2023 to create content that was accessible to the general public. For example, for the 2023 health accounts, the DREES presented the cost and various funding sources of care in France. The SSMSI re-examined the history of how delinquency is measured and the role it has played here since its creation in 2024. The DEPP used this platform to support the dissemination of the Social Position Index for primary schools, secondary schools and colleges, while the Data and Statistical Studies Department of the ministry responsible for the ecological transition used it to provide information about CO2 emissions linked to travel. INSEE has also regularly used this tool to look at flagship topics such as inflation in 2022 and wages in 2023.

### 2.6.2 Public events to highlight the value of official statistics and organise discussions with government departments, experts and researchers

Over the course of 2023, INSEE and several of the MSOs participated in or organised various events at which their statistical productions and studies were presented and discussed with government departments, journalists and researchers.

In February 2023, the INSEE Director-General met students at the *Centre de formation des journalistes* (a French journalism school – CFJ) as part of a masterclass to present INSEE's missions and hold discussions about measuring inflation, income inequality, and rules for interpreting data. INSEE is also a partner and sponsor of the *Printemps de l'économie* event, which offers the general public and in particular young people (college and university students, and young workers) an opportunity to discuss the current economic situation. As part of the 2023 event, a session was also organised on whether inflation is a temporary phenomenon or one that requires action. Similarly, INSEE and the DARES were heavily involved in the 16th edition of the *Journées de l'économie* event, held in Lyon in mid-November, which brought together economists, company heads, experts and journalists to discuss the subject of "overcoming our weaknesses".

The Official Statistical Service also organised various public events in 2023. For example, on its 30th anniversary, the DARES invited researchers and various partners to discuss the major changes taking place on the labour market and to outline future prospects during a symposium entitled "*Déchiffrer les évolutions du travail et de l'emploi pour éclairer l'avenir*" [Decoding labour and employment changes to shed light on the future]. It also organised conferences on subjects including "*Les enjeux emplois de la transition écologique*" [The employment challenges of the ecological transition], while the annual INJEP meetings covered the issue of "*Les jeunes face aux crises : conditions de vie, travail et santé*" [Young people facing crises in living, working and health conditions].

### 2.6.3 New developments needed to improve the statistics culture of French people

The Authority initiated an audit of the statistics culture of French people, which was carried out jointly by the Inspectorate General for Education, Sport and Research (IGÉSR), the Inspectorate General for Cultural Affairs (IGAC) and the INSEE Internal Audit Unit and, between April 2022 and February 2023, led to an extensive and in-depth project to highlight the findings, challenges and prospects associated with this subject area.

This work confirmed the importance for citizens in mastering the basic skills that will enable them to understand the information being disseminated in the public debate and in being able to evaluate it critically at a time when the multiplicity of media channels increases the risk that some of the information will be incorrect or poorly documented. This audit identified the knowledge required at several levels, including among the general public, while also looking specifically at a range of key audiences, namely pupils and teachers, journalists and the media, and public decision-makers. It showed that many young people and adults have significant difficulties in this area, which are often not identified as such, and that the initiatives rolled out, in particular by the producers of official statistics, are only partially achieving their objectives. To address this finding, the audit proposed three areas of action: bringing greater visibility to the challenge that the statistics culture represents, in particular for school audiences and students; proposing mechanisms to develop skills; and expanding, coordinating and spreading the initiatives.

In a statement adopted in May 2023 following the audit hearing, the French Official Statistics Authority insisted on the need to explicitly identify issues of "literacy" and statistics culture as key areas for action for policies and public authorities, and called for the implementation of the

recommendations resulting from the audit, both by statistics producers and the ministries involved. It expressed its wish for these proposals to be complemented by discussions regarding the inclusion of the needs of local representatives and social partners. In its view, a more in-depth examination is required into the training provided to teachers of disciplines other than economics and maths and into the teaching methods that could be used to awaken the interest of other target groups, in particular young people.

As a result, INSEE began drawing up an action plan to address the recommendations it was sent, which will be presented in the first quarter of 2024. Over the course of 2024, the Authority will follow the drafting and development of the action plans proposed by INSEE and the relevant ministries, and will take stock, from time to time, of the progress made.

### 3 ASP Activity in 2023

The French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) held nine meetings between March 2023 and January 2024, during which seven Ministerial Statistical Offices were interviewed and four reports from general audits were presented. As part of the “Official Statistics Strategy”, an agreement was reached to renew labelling, four bodies were granted public interest status for some of their statistics, and a broader working seminar was organised in September. In 2023, following its appointment as the external reference authority for whistleblowers for issues relating to official statistics, the ASP set up a procedure for referring and investigating reports. Following this, it received a report for which an investigation was conducted. The Authority also specifically monitored some areas of statistics activity for which audit reports had been drawn up, and issued various statements on structural or key areas for Official Statistics. Lastly, it was also called on to issue an opinion before the appointment of a new head of the Directorate of Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Monitoring (DEPP) under the Ministry for Education.

#### 3.1 Hearings with Official Statistics producers

As shown by the agendas of the ASP’s meetings given in Appendix 4, the Authority held hearings with seven Ministerial Statistical Offices between March 2023 and January 2024, in addition to the hearing held annually with the INSEE Director-General. These hearings, which are attended by the head of the MSO and, if applicable, the head of the directorate, department or secretariat-general of the ministry to which the MSO is attached, were brought about as a result of: a recent reorganisation (MSO for defence); the appointment of new heads several months earlier (MSOs for immigration, culture, the civil service, and youth and sport); or even the time elapsed since the previous hearing (MSOs for national education, and higher education and research).

Through these hearings, the Authority is able to regularly monitor the main changes currently taking place within the Official Statistical Service. The hearings result in the publication of statements regarding the organisation of the MSO and its position within the ministry to which it is attached. They also relate to the development of its missions and approaches that, where applicable, contribute to greater application of the Code of Practice in its various aspects (see Appendix 5).

#### 3.2 The ASP’s involvement in whistleblowing procedures

The French Official Statistics Authority, which was appointed as the external reference authority for reports regarding the field of Official Statistics by means of Decree No 2022-1284 of 3 October 2022, developed a procedure at the start of 2023 for receiving and processing any reports it may receive in this regard. Its website specifies that its jurisdiction relates to the operating of the Official Statistics system and, in particular, “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”, as well as “ensuring that the Official Statistical Service complies with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice”. The procedure set up provides that the French Official Statistics Authority will conduct the necessary investigations using, where required, the Official Statistics regulatory bodies (CNIS, Label Committee, Confidentiality Committee), while guaranteeing the confidentiality and anonymity of the whistleblower. It is also permitted to request assistance from the INSEE Internal Audit Unit for investigating any reports that it receives.

It was on this basis that the ASP investigated the report that it received on 29 June 2023 from the Secretary-General of the Trade Union for the Ministries of Social Affairs and Labour (CGT-SMAST) in relation to six publications from the DARES, the statistical office of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The ASP requested the INSEE Internal Audit Unit's support and investigated this report. This investigative work, carried out in collaboration with the Authority's rapporteur, was based on factual information gathered about each of the studies or publications mentioned in the referral request, two meetings with the DARES management, an interview with a CGT-SMAST delegation and a meeting with DARES staff representatives, organised via the management. Upon completion of this investigation, the final report was examined by the members of the Authority and a response was sent, on 9 October, to the whistleblower, detailing distinctions between the status of the various publications mentioned in the referral request with regard to the field of official statistics as defined in the Law of 7 June 1951.

As regards the statistical publications mentioned in the report, the findings of the investigation found various failures to comply with the Code of Practice, one following an intervention from the office of the Minister of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion. The impact of these failings was contained by fully releasing the corresponding statistical results in the DARES publication supporting documents, except in one case involving the reworking and rescheduling of a study (which was published in early February 2024).

Given these conclusions, the French Official Statistics Authority asked the DARES management to strictly follow the principles of the Code of Practice and the reference framework for the process of disseminating statistical publications issued by the Official Statistical Service, adopted in February 2023, and to send a mass reminder, both internally and to its external contacts (specifically ministerial contacts), of the provisions regarding the scope and content of that reference framework, for each type of statistical publication at issue.

The DARES management followed these recommendations and decided to draw up a charter, which it shared internally and with its external contacts, and to organise a working group to clarify the channels through which it draws up and shares its various types of publications. An ASP hearing with this MSO is planned for the end of 2024.

### 3.3 Processes for labelling and recognition of public interest statistics status ("Official Statistics Strategy")

The French Official Statistics Authority also made progress in 2023 in both the roll-out and review of the consequences of its "Official Statistics Strategy", which aims to expand the coverage of official statistical regulations to include key quantitative information regularly disseminated "for general information purposes" by government departments, public bodies or bodies tasked with providing a public service, within the meaning of the Law of 7 June 1951, as amended in 2008.

This approach covers both the "labelling", i.e. the allocation of a "public interest and statistics status label" to certain statistical series produced by these bodies, and the process for the "recognition of public interest statistics status", which, since 2021, has allowed for a lighter and more progressive approach, focused on the transparency and accessibility of the provision of information. These procedures both draw on the desire for clearer information for users and improved coordination with the Official Statistical Service. In 2023, the ASP organised a working seminar to draw up an assessment to be shared with all stakeholders and plan the target objectives for the future.

### 3.3.1 The labelling of statistics produced using administrative sources

The labelling procedure, which is more demanding in terms of methods, is to retain its position within this strategy, and enables the ASP to ensure the long-term quality and consistency of certain key statistical information.

Therefore, in late 2022, the decision was made not to renew the labelling of cause of death statistics, so as to instead prioritise a catch-up and update plan for these statistics, which has made good progress. Although the Authority now believes that a technical relabelling dossier could be sent to the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee from late 2024, it also believes that the renewal of labelling will require guarantees as to the sustainability, in terms of human and IT resources, of this key statistical production (see section 2.4.2 above). Likewise, as regards the statistics for job seekers registered with France Travail, the French employment agency, and given the major impacts that the new registration rules provided for under the French Full Employment Law are likely to have on these national and sub-national statistical series, the ASP has stated its intention to suspend their labelling, by no later than 1 January 2025, while awaiting an in-depth statistical study into the variation in the flows and stocks in the various job seeker categories. Together with the Label Committee, this will enable the ASP to establish a labelling expiry date (see section 2.5.2 above and section 3.5 below).

In 2023, the deadline for renewing labelling impacted the quarterly statistics on the price of old housing both within and outside of the Île-de-France region. This renewal was requested jointly for the first time by the Chambers of Notaries of Grand Paris and the High Council for the Notarial Profession representing notaries from outside of the Île-de-France region. A five-year agreement was reached, accompanied by recommendations for the clarifications required regarding the role of the various stakeholders and the planned update to the agreements between INSEE and the various bodies that contribute to the production of these indices, known as “Notaires-INSEE” indices. The ASP also deemed it sensible to maintain researcher access to microdata, subject to clearly documented protocols made known to all (see Appendix 6).

### 3.3.2 Recognition of public interest statistics status

In 2023, the French Official Statistics Authority continued with the process launched in late 2021 to recognise public interest statistics status. Four bodies obtained this status for the statistics series they offer. These are: the Directorate of Social Policy at the Caisse des Dépôts; the Centre for Risk Studies and Expertise, Mobility and Planning (CEREMA); the Directorate-General for Teaching and Research (DGER) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food; and Pôle Emploi for its statistics relating to the job seekers allowance (number of job seekers receiving the allowance, proportion of job seekers eligible for the allowance compared to the total number registered and the average amounts of unemployment benefit) (see Appendix 7).

The series recognised as being in the public interest included, for example, the following: for the Caisse des Dépôts, pensions under the regional and hospital civil service scheme (CNRACL), and the supplementary pension for State and local authority officers in non-permanent positions (IRCANTEC), thereby completing the State Pensions Service labelled series. For the CEREMA, the series entitled “*Consommation d’espaces naturels agricoles et forestiers*” [Use of natural agricultural and forestry spaces] comprises indicators on land artificialisation and provides new information for the environmental sphere. Lastly, the series produced by the DGER in relation to the number of students on agricultural courses in public and private secondary agricultural colleges adds to the overview of secondary education developed by the DEPP.

The hearings held by the Authority with these bodies gave rise to statements (see Appendix 7), for which the Authority used the opinions of the Label Committee as a basis, given that the renewal of these procedures was planned for two to three years' time. In order to continue expanding this approach, the Authority also initiated contact with other bodies, the results of which should come to fruition over the course of 2024.

### 3.3.3 The seminar organised by the ASP on the lessons learned from the “Official Statistics Strategy” and its prospects for the future

Once the “public interest status” procedure, together with the “labelling” procedure, had been in operation for over a year and a half, the French Official Statistics Authority attempted to collectively identify the lessons learned from this stage and to map its prospects for the future, as part of a broadly open review and discussion seminar.

This seminar was held on 13 September 2023 and also sought to gain a greater understanding of and establish connections between the various experiences, discuss any possible progress, in particular in terms of the collaborations with the Official Statistical Service, and to consider the “key objectives” that could be pursued in future.

It was held in several sessions, punctuated by three round tables: the first providing an update on the process and its value for producers and users of statistics; the second dedicated to options for intensifying the cooperation and coordination between the bodies participating in the strategy and the various component parts of the Official Statistical Service; and the third addressing the “target plan” for the future, in terms of eliminating the difficulties encountered, expanding the public interest status, and establishing desirable connections with the labelling process.

The content of the seminar and the lessons learned from it are given in detail in Appendix 8 to the report. The first round table provided an opportunity to showcase the range of situations and experiences within the bodies involved in the strategy, while also highlighting the similarities in their motivations and an assessment of the strategy's value, as well as expectations of the Official Statistics regulation. The second round table showed that the cooperation between these bodies and the Official Statistical Service (primarily the MSOs) may be closer and date back further than merely the coordination around the statistical series covered by the strategy. However, it also showed that this could be an opportunity to strengthen the synergies so as to provide the most relevant indicators and to better share certain tried-and-tested Official Statistics methods and techniques. Lastly, at the third round table, a process was started to examine the avenues to be prioritised in future, by examining the sectors in which the implementation of the Official Statistics strategy may encounter difficulties and considering the next steps for consolidation and development for the bodies involved. This led to more general avenues, such as maintaining the progressivity and malleability required to be able to adapt to the situation in each body, extending the strategy to sectors in which statistical production is sparse or of particular strategic value, defining specific terms for reviewing potential expansions or revisions, and the desirability of communication from the ASP to lend greater visibility to the strategy and potential ways in which the Official Statistical Service can provide support.

On the basis of these lessons learned, in December 2023, the Authority approved guidelines and a method seeking to guide the development of the “Official Statistics Strategy” over the next few years. In particular, these guidelines provide as follows.

- For those bodies already participating in the strategy: insisting on an annual transmission of their updated statistics programme to the CNIS; where possible, ensuring that the expiry dates for labelling or relabelling match those specified for public interest status (revisions or

extensions); and encouraging the prioritisation of labelling for key series that are sent or reported internationally.

- For those bodies likely to participate in the strategy: nurturing the contacts already made, in particular with bodies in the environment sector, while also quickly establishing relations with, for example, those from the financial sector; systematically involving the MSOs in these exchanges; and ensuring that all required clarifications are provided for the respective fields of their statistical productions and series put forward for public interest status or labelling.
- For strategy visibility: providing logos to support the dissemination of the series in question; organising contact with the press to give exposure to the aims and content of these processes; presenting the terms of these processes to the network of ministerial administrators responsible for data, algorithms and source codes (AMDAC); and involving supervisory ministries in order to ensure the labelling and/or public interest status objectives are incorporated into the objectives and management agreements or the objectives and performance contracts entered into between the State and the public bodies.
- Lastly, for the links with Official Statistics: regularly providing these bodies with information on the activities of the French Official Statistics Authority or Official Statistical Service; and planning for the further working meetings bringing together official statisticians and statisticians from these bodies in order to take stock of the strategy's progress and address common issues.

### 3.4 Specific monitoring of areas of statistical activity resulting in audit reports

In 2023, the ASP also conducted specific monitoring of areas of statistical activity that had recently given rise to audit reports and for which recommendations had been issued.

As regards tourism statistics, the report of the audit conducted by the INSEE Internal Audit Unit and submitted to the ASP in June 2022 led to an action plan, which INSEE implemented between late 2022 and 2023. The ASP hearing with those responsible for these statistics in November allowed for a stock-take of progress made (see section 2.2.1.1 above).

The Authority also held a hearing with the Chair of the Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Advisory Board (COLB) to follow up on the statement it issued in November 2021 after hearing from those involved in the joint audit carried out in this area. The aim of that audit was to foster improvements in the quality of the statistics used as a basis for the mandatory international reports, which require information from a wide range of administrative or private bodies to be compiled (professions subject to supervisory and prevention obligations, institutions responsible for monitoring these, tax and customs services, investigative and intelligence services for administrative and legal matters, competent courts, etc.). The report's recommendations included in an ASP statement called for these statistics to be enriched with help from the MSOs and for the implementation of deeper methodological coordination and transparent and documented communication.

As the time frames granted to the COLB to draw up an annual report for 2022 were not sufficient to allow for rapid progress in this area, the ASP hearing with its Chair in September provided an opportunity to launch this work, together with the parties responsible for the report, into the way in which the gathered information on combating money laundering and terrorism financing could be incorporated into a process to recognise public interest status. To this end, they agreed to ask the various producers at the start of 2024 to make specific efforts in terms of the presentation and

documentation of the data that they are provided with, with a view to their inclusion in the next report.

### 3.5 The Authority's statements on structural or key areas for Official Statistics

Four statements, included here verbatim and already introduced in the relevant sections above, ultimately show the impact that the Authority gives to certain key subject areas, which it considers to be structural and of key importance for Official Statistics: the statistical culture of French people (see section 2.6.3 above), the key role played by the Nominative Social Declaration in the information systems relating to wages, employment and integration processes (see section 2.2.1.2 above), the resolution of the problems associated with cause of death statistics (see section 2.4.2 above) and the significant effects that the French Full Employment Law is set to have on national and sub-national job seeker statistics (see sections 2.5.2 and 3.3.1 above).

- **Statement on the statistical culture of French people**

The French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) has become aware of observations and suggestions resulting from an audit of the statistical culture of French people, carried out jointly by the Inspectorate General for Education, Sport and Research (IGÉSR), the Inspectorate General for Cultural Affairs (IGAC) and the INSEE Internal Audit Unit. This audit, which, at the instigation of the Authority, was requested by the three ministries, resulted in an extensive and in-depth project to highlight the findings, challenges and prospects associated with this subject area, which the ASP now believes to be essential for French people to effectively exercise their citizenship.

In this regard, the audit confirmed the importance for citizens in having the basic skills required to understand numerical information and in being able to evaluate it critically at a time when the multiplicity of media channels increases the risk of incorrect or poorly documented information being spread. This audit identified the knowledge required at several levels, including among the general public, while also looking specifically at a range of key audiences, namely pupils and teachers, journalists and the media, and public decision-makers.

The analyses conducted on the basis of the data available show that many young people and adults have significant difficulties in this area, which are often not identified as such, and that the initiatives rolled out, in particular by the producers of official statistics, with a view to achieving progress here, are only partially achieving their objectives. To rectify this situation, the audit proposes three areas for action detailed in the report published on the webpages of the inspectorates and the ASP: bringing greater visibility to the challenge that the statistics culture represents, in particular for school audiences and students; proposing levers to develop skills that are suitable for a range of audiences; and expanding, coordinating and spreading the initiatives.

The French Official Statistics Authority welcomes the key contribution that this report makes to this issue. It insists on the need for issues of “literacy” and statistics culture to be explicitly identified as key areas for action for policies and public authorities.

It calls for decisive implementation of the recommendations from the audit, both by the producers of official statistics (primarily INSEE) and by the ministries concerned.

Furthermore, it wants these suggestions to be supplemented by avenues that specifically take into account the needs of local representatives and social, trade union and employer partners, following consultation with the CNIS and, where required, additional expertise to further these suggestions. It also believes that a more in-depth examination is required into the training provided to teachers of disciplines other than economics and maths, the educational methods considered to address the

various audiences (especially young people) in a more targeted manner, and the possibility of using relay mechanisms involving networks of trainers or volunteers for this purpose.

The Authority intends to make the monitoring of these suggestions a key part of its work over the next few years. It will follow the drafting of action plans on this issue by INSEE and the competent ministries and will take stock, from time to time, of the progress made.

Lastly, as it believes it necessary for the issue of the statistics culture of French people to be included in the political and social debate, it also plans to contribute publicly to this issue in 2024.

- **Statement on the use of the Nominative Social Declaration (Déclaration sociale nominative – DSN) for Official Statistics or steering purposes**

The French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) has become aware of and examined the analyses and suggestions resulting from the audit carried out by the Inspectorate General for Social Affairs and the INSEE Internal Audit Unit regarding the “use of data from the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN) for Official Statistics or steering purposes”.

The report of these bodies, published in April 2023, offered particularly useful findings regarding the main ways in which the DSN, having become a key tool, is used in the monitoring of employment, professional integration, remuneration and payrolls for statistical purposes and to guide public initiatives at various levels, while also highlighting the challenges of coherence between these two types of use.

The report firstly describes the various databases created upstream of the DSN declaration process. These relate to various levels of development, from “raw data” to “reworked data” that has undergone expert assessment to produce knowledge and clusters relating to the labour market. It notes that the existence of a range of databases raises questions of overall efficiency, coordination and transparency, and of providing the information that users require in order to accurately find the most suitable data for their needs.

In this regard, the ASP supports the suggestion given in the report regarding the mapping of the databases developed on the basis of the DSN, to be updated regularly and resituated more broadly as one of the available sources of data on employment and wages.

The report then reviews the various ways in which these databases are used in the areas of employment, remuneration and professional integration in order to develop statistical knowledge or to steer public policies.

**As regards the use of the DSN for statistical purposes**, the report notes, given the limits and weaknesses of “raw data”, the key role played by the Official Statistical Service in terms of “qualifying” the data from these declarations (taking into consideration declaration errors, duplications and corrections, translating administrative headings into statistical concepts), which it does as part of a strengthened cooperative partnership between the DARES, INSEE and Urssaf Caisse nationale. It states that using the DSN has contributed to greater coordination between the three stakeholders, leading to improved and accelerated processing allowing for the economic monitoring of salaried employment, while also recalling the need for these links to be deepened, in terms of structural monitoring and statistical analysis of labour remuneration and its component parts.

The ASP highlights the key value of this coordination so as to guarantee the quality, relevance and interpretability of the statistics produced. As identified in the audit, it believes that upscaling the use of the DSN (through the incorporation of the civil service in 2022) has now made it possible to take a key step forward in terms of standardising concepts, methods, processes and production, and even

to consider, in the long term, unifying the databases created for statistical purposes. In this regard, the Authority recommends continuing and expanding the coordination approach in place between the three producers of Official Statistics (INSEE, the DARES and Urssaf Caisse nationale, whose relevant statistical series have been labelled or granted public interest status), in order to make as much progress as possible in unifying concepts, sharing experience feedback and specialising in the assessments and products based on the skills of each stakeholder, and to conduct a review into the possibility of a long-term convergence of the information systems and databases.

The report of the bodies also highlights the statistical value of the DSN in implementing longitudinal monitoring and in-depth analyses of the dynamics of integration and employment, via a series of panels enriched through matching with other relevant information sources (school and university education, receiving social security benefits, “return to work” support measures for target populations, etc.).

The ASP has already noted the key statistical contribution made by these individual data matching operations, carried out under the aegis of the Official Statistical Service with the strictest guarantees in terms of quality and confidentiality.<sup>1</sup> It also highlights the beneficial prospects for evaluative studies and research, where this controlled and enriched data is provided to approved bodies and researchers, preferably in the form of raw data, under conditions of confidentiality guaranteed by the Statistical Confidentiality Committee and the technical environment of the Secure Data Access Centre (CASD).

The report only briefly mentions a range of other uses that have been initiated or considered by the Official Statistical Service in various sectors, for example, for the purposes of conducting a comparative or evolving analysis of the employment and remuneration conditions in specific fields of activity, often closely linked with the public sector.

The Authority therefore sees value in completing and furthering the assessment and prospects associated with these current and planned uses as part of a collective and coordinated approach between the producers of Official Statistics. It wants increased pooling and activity regarding all the ways in which the DSN is used for statistical purposes, whether this is direct use of reference databases, or indirect use following any enrichment that may take place (additional information, more detailed nomenclature grids, etc.).

**As regards the uses of the DSN for the purposes of guiding public policy,** the ASP does not have direct jurisdiction to implement this within the government departments or bodies that have issued requests, which have been classified in the report.

Nevertheless, the Authority believes that, as recommended by the audit, it is essential that these uses be developed efficiently and coherently with the processes carried out for statistical purposes, taking into consideration the support function that the MSOs are required to perform under the terms of the charter adopted in 2019 and which may, in particular, seek to improve the quality and accessibility of data from administrative origins as specified in the ASP statement of 31 January 2022. Following this guideline would also likely expand the examinations already conducted within the Official Statistical Service as regards returning administrative data that has undergone certain statistical processing to the government departments.

In order to effectively guarantee this coherence, the ASP considers the most preferable of the governance solutions explored in the report to be the one prioritised by the inspectorates and audit units. This relates to a “Labour data hub” based on a cell specifically created within the DARES

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.autorite-statistique-publique.fr/delibere-du-22-septembre-2021/>

management, which would act as a focal point and offer a matching service for the monitoring of professional integration dynamics, in direct collaboration with the CASD, which is part of the Official Statistics sphere<sup>2</sup> and is already the main access platform for statistical data from the DSN.

- **Statement on cause of death statistics**

As specified in its statement of 1 February 2023, the French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) conducted a hearing with those responsible for cause of death statistics on the basis of a joint note received from the Centre for Epidemiology on the Medical Causes of Death of the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (CépiDc-INSERM) and the Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics Directorate of the Ministry of Health and Social affairs (DREES). The DREES Director was also present at this hearing in his capacity as chair of the project steering committee.

The Authority welcomes the progress made over the course of the last year, which allowed for the delay in the statistics for 2018 and 2019 to be caught up on and for collaboration to take place between the DREES, the INSERM's CépiDc and Santé publique France (SpF) so as to publish the statistics for 2021 before the end of December 2023. This progress is now enabling France to meet its obligations vis-à-vis the European Union and the "catch-up" phase recommended in April 2021 by the joint audit carried out by the IGÉSR, the IGAS and the INSEE Internal Audit Unit is now complete.

From a technical perspective, it will, however, be necessary in 2024 to consolidate the progress achieved by continuing to reduce production time frames so as to ensure that the cause of death statistics are as useful as possible for public health policies, while also improving the organisation and working conditions of the CépiDc team following its move, and improving the documentation, training and use of production methods associated with these statistics, which are now based on an encoding system developed using artificial intelligence techniques. The team is also set to begin looking into transitioning to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 11th revision, (ICD11) planned for 2027.

One of the key issues still to be resolved is improving the matching operations carried out for the purposes of establishing the National Health Data System (SNDS), of which the cause of death database forms an integral part. This will require active IT collaboration between INSEE and the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM). This system will also need to take into account the desired acceleration of the production timeline in the reconciliations carried out using civil status statistics.

In the area of governance, the Authority welcomes the creation of a permanent strategic committee, which will follow on from the previous steering committee and continue to be chaired by the DREES Director. It does, however, regret that statisticians have not, up to now, been systematically involved in defining and implementing the training provided to doctors, and now to nurses, responsible for certification, where the baseline quality of the information provided is key to improving encoding and the final content of the statistics produced.

Furthermore, the Authority notes that, while very significant progress has been made, there is still work to be done in order to guarantee permanent and effective statistical production of this scale. In particular, this relates to two key points, which it had already mentioned in its previous statement:

- multi-year assurance of long-term human and financial resources for the project, given that some recruitments made are temporary and the annual planned budgets must be boosted beyond 2024-2025;

---

<sup>2</sup> Along with the MSOs, the CASD has the status of "Other National Authority – ONA), for European statistical purposes.

- the provision of resources and IT applications that are accessible for the statisticians and suitable for large-scale statistical production channels: this step has not yet been achieved, with only a needs analysis and a comparison against choices made for other statistical productions of the same type having been conducted to date.

Given these elements and if project progress continues as planned, the Authority believes that a technical dossier on the relabelling of cause of death statistics could be sent to it from the end of 2024 and that an investigation by the Label Committee could then start. Relabelling could be agreed by the ASP provided that the two conditions mentioned above are effectively guaranteed.

- **Statement on labour market statistics**

The French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) has become aware of the provisions of the draft French Full Employment Law adopted by the Senate on 9 November and by the National Assembly on 14 November 2023 regarding the registration of job seekers with the French employment agency, France Travail.

Firstly, these provisions will have a major impact on the national and sub-national statistics on registered job seekers, for which labelling was renewed and expanded by the ASP for a five-year period on 21 May 2021.

Against the backdrop of the creation of France Travail, the legislative text adopted provides that, as of no later than 1 January 2025, any person applying for the RSA benefit and their spouse, any person who, while seeking employment, applies for support from local taskforces for the professional and social integration of young people, and any person who applies for support from a placement organisation that specialises in professional integration of people with a disability be registered as job seekers. Implementing these provisions is likely to involve changes to the administrative categories that are used as a basis for developing, per grouping, statistical job seeker categories and which divide up the job seekers depending on their employment situation, their availability and whether or not they are obliged to prove that they are actively seeking employment.

The French Official Statistics Authority noted the major impact that these changes are likely to have on the labelled job seeker series in making it difficult to interpret them for a period.

Following a written exchange with the DARES and Pôle Emploi, who together are producers of this data, the Authority welcomes the creation of a working group within the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) to discuss the possible ways to incorporate these changes into the labour market statistics with as much transparency as possible. As was the case with the changes that took place in 2008 and 2018, it would be useful for these discussions to address the relevance of the statistical categories used to describe the labour market using administrative data and the monitoring process that will be set up during the transition period, then during the wider roll-out of the new registration system. As part of this, the Authority hopes that, during the transition period, an assessment of the statistical impact of the enhanced support pilot for RSA beneficiaries will be carried out and shared ahead of the general roll-out of the new registration rules.

It also considered it to be crucial that, once the system becomes permanent, an in-depth statistical study into the flows and stocks in the various job seeker categories is carried out and published, this being accompanied, where possible, by relevant backcast series.

In this regard, the ASP plans, by no later than 1 January 2025, to suspend the labelling of job seeker series, while awaiting a study that, together with the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee, will enable it to establish a labelling expiry date.

Secondly, the French Official Statistics Authority noted that these provisions, combined with the guidance and support measures provided by law for certain specific audiences, are also likely to lead to significant changes in the series on activity rates, unemployment and employment as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO), established and published by INSEE on the basis of the Labour Force Survey. It therefore hopes that this consultation, taking place under the aegis of the CNIS, will make it possible to examine and present publicly the way in which the monitoring and assessment of these rates will allow for the consequences of the reform on the main labour market indicators to be tracked over time.

### 3.6 Official Statistics Authority communication

The first initiative carried out by the ASP via its rapporteur was updating the Authority's website, which now offers improved access to its various statements and opinions.

Throughout 2023, there were various topic areas that led the ASP to contact the offices of the Prime Minister and the ministers most affected by statistical production. The initial reason for this was to introduce the group of new managers to the Authority's 2022 report and the reference framework for the process of disseminating statistical publications issued by the Official Statistical Service adopted in February 2023. In some instances, this contact was necessary to settle various incidents (see section 2.3.1 above). Lastly, the ASP attempted to promote the challenges associated with improving the "statistical culture of French people" (see section 2.6.3 above), by meeting the deputy chiefs of staff of the Minister of Culture and the chief of staff of the Minister for National Education.

The main communication activity carried out by the Authority in 2023 was the review and discussion seminar organised in Bercy on 13 September 2023 to discuss the lessons learned and possible prospects of the "Official Statistics Strategy" (see section 3.3.3 above). This was an important opportunity to discuss the subjects associated with Official Statistics and their scope, and will hopefully lead, in 2024, to other communication actions to establish a better understanding, including in the press, of the consequences of this strategy and the terms of statistical regulations.



# LIST OF APPENDICES

## **Appendix 1**

Institutional framework and composition of the French Official Statistics Authority

## **Appendix 2**

Report recipients

## **Appendix 3**

The Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs) as at 31 December 2023

## **Appendix 4**

Meetings of the Authority

## **Appendix 5**

The Authority's statements following the hearings with producers of official statistics

## **Appendix 6**

Opinions on the renewal of labelling

## **Appendix 7**

Opinions regarding public interest official statistics status

## **Appendix 8**

Content and lessons learned from the working seminar organised by the French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) on 13 September 2023 on the "Official Statistics Strategy" for the bodies participating in the production of official statistics

## **Appendix 9**

CNIS 2023 report



# ANNEXE 1 : Institutional framework and composition of the French Official Statistics Authority

## Institutional framework

The institutional framework of Official Statistics in France was updated by means of the Law on the Modernisation of the Economy of 4 August 2008. Furthermore, Article 1 of Law No 51-711 of 7 June 1951 on Legal Obligation, Coordination and Confidentiality in the Field of Statistics, as amended by means of Organic Law No 2010 of 28 June 2010, establishes the French Official Statistics Authority.

The institutional framework of Official Statistics in France is based on three pillars.

**The National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS)**, which organises interactions between the producers and users of official statistics. In this role, it also highlights new needs for information. It guides the programming of work within Official Statistics, and suggests possible avenues to address questions about society as efficiently as possible.

*The CNIS is chaired by Mr Patrice Duran.*

**The Official Statistical Service (SSP)**, which plays a leading role in designing, producing and disseminating official statistics.

As at 31 December 2023, it comprises INSEE and 16 Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs). It is coordinated by INSEE.

*INSEE is headed up by Mr Jean-Luc Tavernier.*

**The Official Statistics Authority (ASP)**, which ensures that official statistics are drawn up in full professional independence and in accordance with the fundamental principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice: impartiality, objectivity, relevance and data quality.

It draws up an annual report on official statistics activity, which is submitted to the French Parliament and made public. This report relates to 2023, the Authority's 15th year of operation.

*Decree No 2018-800 of 20 September 2018 amending Decree No 2009-250 of 3 March 2019 on the ASP*

## Composition of the Official Statistics Authority

**At the time of drafting this report (February 2024), the ASP was composed of the following members:**

Ms Mireille Elbaum, President, appointed by means of the Council of Ministers Decree of 14 April 2021

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

Mr Denis Badré, appointed by the President of the Senate

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

Mr Charles de la Verpillière, Chair of the Statistical Confidentiality Committee, appointed by the Vice-President of the Council of State

Ms Lorraine Aeberhardt, appointed by the first President of the Court of Auditors

Mr François Auvigne, appointed by the head of the Inspectorate General of Finances

Mr Antoine Magnier, appointed by the head of the Inspectorate General for Social Affairs

Ms Martine Durand, appointed by the Minister of the Economy and Finance

Rapporteur: Ms Pascale Pollet

*See the website of the French Official Statistics Authority: <https://www.autorite-statistique-publique.fr/>*

## ANNEXE 2 : Recipients of the 2023 report

“This report is sent to the Parliament and made public» (Article 2 of the Decree of 3 March 2009 on the French Official Statistics Authority, as amended)

In line with what has taken place since 2009, this report will be sent to:

- *the Parliament*: the Presidents of the National Assembly and the Senate
- *the elected representatives of the Nation*
  - President of the Republic
  - Prime Minister
  - Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty
  - Minister for Public Accounts
  - President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council
  - Secretary-General of the Government
  - Ministers responsible for supervising the Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs):
    - ◆ Minister of Health and Prevention
    - ◆ Minister of Solidarity, Autonomy and Persons with Disabilities
    - ◆ Minister of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty
    - ◆ Minister for the Ecological Transition and Regional Cohesion
    - ◆ Minister of National Education and Youth
    - ◆ Minister of Higher Education and Research
    - ◆ Minister of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion
    - ◆ Minister of Culture
    - ◆ Minister of the Interior and Overseas Territories
    - ◆ Minister of Transformation and the Civil Service
    - ◆ Minister for the Armed Forces
    - ◆ Minister of Justice
- *the Grands Corps de l'État [senior branches of the civil service]*
  - First President of the Court of Auditors
  - Head of the Inspectorate General of Finances
  - Head of the Inspectorate General for Social Affairs
- All the bodies having participated in the Official Statistics strategy through labelling or public interest status
- *representatives of French Official Statistics*
  - President of the CNIS
  - INSEE Director-General, heads of the Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs), INSEE regional directors

- Banque de France and other producing bodies
- Members of INSEE's Executive Committee
- *Representatives of European Official Statistics (after translation of the report into English)*
  - President of the Europe Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)
  - Eurostat
  - The European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC)

## ANNEXE 3 : The Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs) as at 31 December 2023

DREES	Ministry of Health and Prevention Ministry of Solidarity, Autonomy and Persons with Disabilities Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty Directorate of Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics (DREES)
Official Service	Statistical Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Secretariat-General – Department of Statistics and Foresight Analysis Regional Directorates of Food, Agriculture and Forestry – specialist statistical offices
SDES	Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Regional Cohesion Ministry for the Energy Transition Office of the Commissioner General for Sustainable Development Data and Statistical Studies Department (SDES)
DEPP	Ministry of National Education and Youth Ministry of Higher Education and Research Directorate of Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Monitoring (DEPP)
SIES	Ministry of Higher Education and Research Directorate-General for Higher Education and Employability and Directorate-General for Research and Innovation Information Systems and Statistical Studies Sub-Directorate
DARES	Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion Directorate of Research, Economic Studies and Statistics (DARES)
Justice	Ministry of Justice Secretariat-General Statistics and Studies Sub-Directorate
Local authorities	Ministry of the Interior and Overseas Territories Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Regional Cohesion Directorate-General of Local Authorities Department of Local Studies and Statistics (DESL)
Public finances	Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty Directorate-General for Public Finance Department of Fiscal Studies and Statistics (DESF) Pôle statistique publique (Official Statistics Centre)
Customs	Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty Customs Directorate General Department of Foreign Trade Statistics and Studies (DSECE)
Civil service	Ministry of Transformation and the Civil Service Directorate-General for Administration and the Civil Service Sub-Directorate of Studies, Statistics and Information Systems

Immigration and Integration	Ministry of the Interior and Overseas Territories Directorate-General for Foreign Nationals in France Department of Studies, Statistics and Documentation (DSED)
Youth and sport	Ministry of National Education and Youth Directorate of Youth, Non-Formal Education and Community Life National Institute of Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP) (Surveys, Data and Statistical Studies Section)
Defence	Ministry for the Armed Forces Financial Affairs Directorate Sub-Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies
Culture	Ministry of Culture Secretariat-General Department of Studies, Foresight, Statistics and Documentation (DEPS)
Internal security	Ministry of the Interior and Overseas Territories Directorate-General of the National Police and Directorate-General of the National Gendarmerie Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal Security (SSMSI)

## ANNEXE 4 : 2023 Meetings of the Authority

### Meeting of 23 March 2023

- Hearing with the Information Systems and Statistical Studies Sub-Directorate (SIES)
- Hearing with the Caisse des Dépôts as part of the “Official Statistics Strategy”
- Issues of interest:
  - Adoption of the report
  - Presentation of the ASP procedure for whistleblower reports
  - Decree establishing the DEPP

### Meeting of 11 May 2023

- Issues of interest
- Presentation of the “Statistical culture of French people” project by the representatives of the three inspectorates general involved: the INSEE Internal Audit Unit, the Inspectorate General for Cultural Affairs, and the Inspectorate General of Education, Sport and Research
- Update on RÉSIL (statistical directory of individuals and housing)
- Hearing with the Directorate of Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Monitoring of the Ministry for National Education

### Meeting of 29 June 2023

- Hearing with the Sub-Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies, the MSO for the Ministry for the Armed Forces
- Issues of interest
- Hearing with the Pôle Emploi as part of the “Official Statistics Strategy”
- Hearing with the Sub-Directorate of Studies, Statistics and Information Systems, the MSO for the Ministry of the Civil Service

### Meeting of 5 July 2023

- Hearing with the CEREMA as part of the “Official Statistics Strategy”
- Issues of interest
- Hearing with the DGER of the Ministry of Agriculture as part of the “Official Statistics Strategy”
- Presentation of the “Uses of the DSN for statistical and steering purposes” project by the INSEE Internal Audit Unit and the Inspectorate General for Social Affairs

### **Meeting of 21 September 2023**

- Issues of interest
- Decisions to be taken by the ASP
- Update on the DARES report investigation
- Hearing with the Department of Studies, Statistics and Documentation, the MSO for immigration
- Renewal of labelling of the Notaires-INSEE indices
- Update on progress with statistics on combating money laundering and terrorism financing

### **Meeting of 5 October 2023**

- Approval of the draft letter addressed to the Secretary-General of the Trade Union for the Ministries of Social Affairs and Labour in response to the report regarding the DARES
- Discussion about the statistical uses of the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN)

### **Meeting of 9 November 2023**

- Presentation of the INSEE Internal Audit Unit's project to look into the potential medium-term pooling opportunities within the Official Statistical Service
- Presentation of the INSEE Internal Audit Unit's project to look into INSEE's position vis-à-vis the CASD in an evolving context
- Issues of interest
- Feedback on the seminar held on 13/09/2023
- Update on tourism statistics

### **Meeting of 14 December 2023**

- Medium-term CNIS 2018-2023 report
- Hearing with the MSO for youth and sport (INJEP)
- Issues of interest
- Presentation of DMCSI projects: international questions and statistical coordination

### **Meeting of 11 January 2024**

- Issues of interest and progress of ASP work
- Hearing with the MSO for culture
- Update on progress of cause of death statistics
- Hearing with Mr Patrice Duran, President of the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS)
- Hearing with Mr Jean-Luc Tavernier, INSEE Director-General



## ANNEXE 5 : The Authority's statements following the hearings with producers of official statistics



3 May 2023

### **Statement following the hearing with the head of the Ministerial Statistical Office of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research**

The French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) held a hearing on 23 March 2023 with the Information Systems and Statistical Studies Sub-Directorate (SIES), in the presence of the head of the Higher Education and Research Strategy Coordination Service, to which the SIES is attached. This hearing took place following a reorganisation that resulted from an audit by the Inspectorate General for Higher Education and Research and the appointment of a new head of this office.

The Information Systems and Statistical Studies Sub-Directorate (SIES) is attached to two directorates-general: the Directorate-General for Higher Education and Employability (DGSIP) and the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DGRI), as the service within which it carries out its missions. These are broken down into four categories, two of which focus on key statistics or study areas specific to the Ministry, in the areas of higher education and research, while the other two look at cross-disciplinary subject areas, such as information systems, decision-making aids, and monitoring scientific employment.

The ASP noted that the MSO is fulfilling its missions in compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice. It formed numerous cooperative partnerships with other component parts of the Official Statistical Service, first and foremost of which the MSO for National Education (the DEPP) and the National Institute of Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP), based on historic and subject-specific links between these offices. Partnerships were also developed with the DARES (the MSO for the ministry responsible for employment) in order to establish the Inersup panel, which reconciles individual data on students in higher education with information about their integration into employment, and with the DREES (MSO for the ministry responsible for health and solidarity) around the topic of training for health care and social professionals. The

cooperative partnerships entered into by the SIES include with the MSOs for the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Agriculture, and more recently the DGFIP to establish statistics on research tax credit (CIR). The SIES thereby has access to a large number of sources, creating a large information system.

A collaboration framework was recently set up to develop the annual work programme for the SIES, bringing together various contacts within the ministry, in order to take account of their needs as efficiently as possible.

The ASP welcomes these changes, particularly the launch, by the SIES, of several key investment projects matching data from various sources, often in collaboration with other Ministerial Statistical Offices. This was the case for the Inersup project, which seeks to gain a better understanding of new developments and which meets a high demand from public authorities. Expanding the longitudinal monitoring of student trajectories is another major challenge for the SIES, which goes beyond simply publishing indicators on rates of employment upon leaving higher education.

The ASP did, however, note that, while the ministry's internal needs have been identified, a consultation with external users still needs to be organised and developed, as does the governance for all statistical production within the ministry, to which other administrative directorates also contribute.

One of the objectives should be to develop statistical productions and studies in the area of research, which will involve a rebalancing of the SIES activities between the subjects associated with higher education and those dealing with research.

The ASP also noted that, given these challenges, the Statistical Service is currently functioning with limited permanent staff numbers and a high number of temporary statisticians, interns or apprentices, which has weakened it in some areas, taking into account the increase in its statistical production volumes and requests for analyses and studies that it receives. Following the initial boost to staffing to expand the Inersup panel, it would therefore be desirable to increase staff numbers in the long term.

3 July 2023

## **Statement following the hearing with the Director of the Directorate of Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Monitoring of the Ministry of National Education and Youth**

The French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) held a hearing on 11 May 2023 with the Director of the Directorate of Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Monitoring (DEPP), the Ministerial Statistical Office for the Ministry of National Education and Youth, along with her deputy. This hearing took place several years after the Directorate's reorganisation in 2016.

The DEPP's tasks are primarily centred on producing and publishing statistics and studies on the education system. These are complemented by policy steering support functions that include providing the ministry with the information and indicators that it needs and leading research to enable researchers to develop more in-depth analyses on the functioning of the educational system, in particular through the provision of microdata.

Here, the DEPP contributes to all aspects of the evaluation processes: evaluation of the education system, public policies, establishments based on the characteristics of the groups of public that use them. It also plays a key role in assessing pupil skills both nationally and internationally (Eurostat, OECD, Unesco). At regional level, the DEPP runs a network that comprises statistical offices in education authorities, which share the same missions and values.

To meet the expectations of the various partners, the DEPP plans to further its understanding of the trajectories of pupils and apprentices (to which the Inserjeunes longitudinal mechanism will make a key contribution), and the careers of teaching staff. Other areas for development include well-being of pupils and staff in the national education system, and the resources and costs associated with the operation of these establishments. One key challenge also revolves around the information provided from Apprentice Training Centres based on suitable repositories. The DEPP also hopes to improve its data monitoring and quality assurance system by implementing a strategy seeking to better describe the processes, systematise information feedback and provide easier access for all users (National Education stakeholders, as well as journalists, companies, the general public, etc.).

The French Official Statistics Authority noted that this MSO is fulfilling its missions in compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice. In particular, it noted the importance and diversity of its publications, although there is a need for the dissemination process to be fully brought in line with the new reference framework for Official Statistical Service publications.

It also hopes that, following the recent opinions of the Commission for Access to Administrative Documents (CADA), the DEPP will provide an even clearer distinction between its indicators that constitute administrative data, which may be enriched by its services, and those that consist of statistical information subject to the provisions of the Law of 7 June 1951.

The Authority also welcomed the scale and wealth of the user consultation procedures put in place by the DEPP, which have led it to pay very close attention to user needs. The ASP supports the focus on refining how its statistical results and analyses are communicated to the various target groups, by adapting the ways in which it shares information and communicates with users. From a more general perspective, it will be useful for the DEPP to be involved in developing and monitoring initiatives seeking to improve the statistical culture of French people, following the interministerial audit carried out on this topic.

The ASP further noted that the DEPP has received significant boosts in terms of financial and human resources over recent years due to new tasks with which it was entrusted (pupil evaluations, monitoring the school climate, etc.) and that it has agents with a range of profiles (statisticians provided by INSEE, contractors, teachers with reduced working hours, apprentices, doctoral candidates, etc.). However, the Authority identified the difficulties encountered in updating the skills the DEPP needs for all its statistical production and in recruiting high-level IT or statistics experts.

The Authority also supports the DEPP's choice to strengthen its cooperative partnerships within the Official Statistical Service, in particular with the Ministerial Statistical Office of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (SIES), and to further open up its data to researchers. To do this, the DEPP chose to upload data to the PROGEDO Diffusion portal and to take part in the IDEE equipment of excellence project funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR). The ASP hopes that, ultimately, the DEPP will also consider making data available to the Secure Data Access Centre (CASD) and thereby contribute to standardisation of practices within the Official Statistical Service.

Lastly, the Authority recommends that the longitudinal statistical instruments for youth integration (the Inserjeunes and Inserup panels, and the CEREQ's *Génération* [generation] survey) lead to a joint medium-term discussion (led by the CNIS, where applicable) seeking to coordinate content, methods and usages so as to guarantee the interconnection and optimisation of these tools and relevant responses to the range of questions about the professional and social aspects of integration.

22 September 2023

## **Statement following the hearing with the head of the Ministerial Statistical Office of the Ministry for the Armed Forces**

The French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) held a hearing on 29 June 2023 with the head of the Sub-Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies (S2E), in the presence of the director of the Financial Affairs Directorate to which the S2E is attached. This hearing took place following a reorganisation, which itself followed the joint audit of INSEE's Internal Audit Unit and the General Inspectorate of the Armed Forces carried out in 2021 and a statement adopted by the Authority in September 2021.

The shortcomings identified during this audit and recalled in the statement were taken into consideration and a series of solutions is being implemented. As a result, the MSO, now incorporated as a sub-directorate under the Financial Affairs Directorate, increased its visibility and capacity for internal dialogue. As the findings showed shortcomings in the management of the MSO and a failure to compile user needs, a ministerial committee for statistical information (CoMIS) was set up to meet the objective of promoting dialogue between producers and users, compiling the various needs, validating the department's work programme and ensuring its access to the data required. The lack of resources identified by the audit is gradually being addressed, with the target of 26 agents set to be reached in December 2023. The S2E is now able to meet the MSO charter and produce statistics that comply with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

With this in mind, the MSO has the option of further integrating into the Official Statistical Service by developing collaborative partnerships with INSEE and other MSOs, such as the MSOs for Customs and the DGAFP, and by participating in joint projects with the DGFIP, the DREES or the DARES, which would likely provide the Ministry for the Armed Forces with new insights into subjects relating to the working conditions, health and career paths of soldiers, and the income of their households. Beyond these various collaborations, the MSO should continue to improve its own statistical production, for example by conducting a new iteration of the EDIS survey on industry and services defence businesses (*enquête sur les entreprises de défense de l'industrie et des services*).

The Authority welcomes the ongoing changes, which will allow the MSO for defence to comply with the MSO charter and the European Statistics Code of Practice. It hopes to extend and confirm

these actions, in particular as regards the cross-cutting nature of the MSO's position and the pursuit of coordination across all statistical production within the Ministry for the Armed Forces.

The Authority also noted that the dissemination of the MSO's results and statistical studies is carried out independently and, thanks to a new website, using channels that differentiate between these publications and those of the rest of the ministry. However, it does not fully make a distinction between the internal proofreading phase and the early publication release deadline, mentioned in the common reference framework adopted at the start of 2023 for the process of disseminating statistical publications issued by the Official Statistical Service and approved by the ASP. The Authority therefore hopes that the S2E and the Financial Affairs Directorate will look to fully and entirely apply these principles.

Lastly, it recommends that work to use external sources, and in particular the Nominative Social Declaration, is resolutely continued and that a discussion with users outside the ministry is considered, given that issues linked to national defence are naturally of interest and a concern for citizens.

22 September 2023

## **Statement following the hearing with the head of the Ministerial Statistical Office of the Ministry for the Civil Service**

The French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) held a hearing with the manager of the Studies, Statistics, and Information Systems Sub-Directorate (SDESSI), the Ministerial Statistical Office for the Ministry of the Civil Service, for the first time on 29 June 2023. The deputy director of the Directorate-General for Administration and the Civil Service was also present at the hearing.

The Sub-Directorate of Studies, Statistics and Information Systems comprises two departments, one with 10 agents, which is responsible for establishing subject-specific statistics (employment, remuneration and pensions, recruitment and training, labour organisation), and the second, which has 8 agents, is responsible for data and information systems.

The Authority noted that the statistical information established by the SDESSI is essentially based on sources created within the Official Statistical Service, and in particular INSEE, with which it has a close connection: it is part of the steering or monitoring committees for various surveys or databases, such as the *Emploi en continu* [continuous Labour Force] survey or the system for information on civil servants (SIASP), and also contributes to some methodological work. It also uses a set of data from the DARES, the DREES, the DEPP and the Department of Local Studies and Statistics (DESL) of the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas Territories, which allows it to benefit from the coordination and pooling opportunities made available through its incorporation into the Official Statistical Service.

In 2023, the MSO for the Civil Service also undertook to directly produce a statistical survey mechanism for the civil service competitive exams. It will also need to address the major challenges facing the civil service, i.e. monitoring workplace accidents and occupational diseases and monitoring supplementary social welfare. One of its key roles will also be to take into consideration the implications of transitioning to the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN).

The ASP noted that the MSO is fulfilling the majority of its missions in compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

It did, however, note that the MSO is actively managing or participating in large projects with staff levels that may seem risky. It also needs to deal with users requests, in particular regarding remuneration and career paths of civil servants, which requires a trade-off every year.

The ASP encourages the SDESSI to set up a quality strategy, the aim of which will be to secure the survey processes, improve documentation and access to the statistics produced, and take into account user needs more broadly. The ASP also urges the MSO to continue improving its methodological exchanges with INSEE and the other components parts of the Official Statistical Service.

From the Authority's perspective, however, the main issue relates to the fact that the large majority of the MSO's statistical production is disseminated by means of the annual report on the state of the civil service, which is communicated to and discussed by the Joint Civil Service Council (CCFP), the national authority for social dialogue, prior to its transmission to the French Parliament. While this process helps to ensure that the statistical results relating to the civil service are available for use by the social partners and allows them to express their needs in terms of additional clarification, it does not comply with the principles governing dissemination platforms and early access given in the joint reference framework for the process of disseminating statistical publications issued by the Official Statistical Service adopted at the start of the year and the ASP's statement of 15 March 2023, which recommends quick operational implementation of this.

In this regard, the ASP asked the managers of the SDESSI and the Directorate-General for Administration and the Civil Service to conduct a review, together with representatives from the social partners, so as to establish a clearer distinction between the statistical results that require specific dissemination and lessons learned, comments and conclusions associated with the report and derived from the work of the government department and the CCFP.

10 November 2023

## **Statement following the hearing with the head of the Ministerial Statistical Office for immigration**

The French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) held a hearing on 21 September 2023 with the head of the Department of Studies, Statistics and Documentation (DSED), in the presence of the head of the Directorate-General for Foreign Nationals in France (DGEF), to which the department is attached. This hearing followed the appointment of a new manager of this Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO).

The Department of Studies, Statistics and Documentation (DSED) is responsible for cross-disciplinary functions within the DGEF. It comprises two divisions that fulfil statistical missions, one focusing on improving administrative sources and the other on surveys and statistical studies. The department also performs two other activities, namely directorate documentation and acting as the French point of contact for the European Migration Network (EMN).

The ASP noted that the MSO is fulfilling its missions in compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice. Its foundation and the contributions it provides are consolidated at national level by the synergies and partnerships it develops with the other component parts of the Official Statistical Service (primarily INSEE, the DARES and the DEPP), and with the INED, which helps to create statistical surveys for research purposes. At international level, the DSED provides statistical data on migration to both Eurostat and the OECD, and responds to other requests for information (in particular from the European Commission, Frontex, etc.).

As the DSED gathers information on user needs through bodies that generally have a broader purpose, the ASP believes that this data gathering should be systematised and expanded to other relevant stakeholders and bodies.

However, the Authority is aware that the scope of the DSED's statistical productions is largely determined by constraints associated with the administrative sources on the one hand, and by the European statistical obligations on the other, in a context of limited staff numbers, which also need to be bolstered in terms of skill level.

It is therefore logical that the department's service project should emphasise, in terms of statistics, strengthening the processes and improving the use of sources and partnerships. This will require

the DSED to take advantage of digitalised procedures for its statistical production over the next few years and to primarily focus its new projects on developing studies and analyses, based, where applicable, on additional sources.

For this, the ASP recommends that the MSO continue its efforts in terms of disseminating statistical information for the public, which, in future, will be possible due to the update of its website, the development of data visualisation, and the establishment of an open data policy. It encourages partnerships with the French Immigration and Integration Office (*Office français de l'immigration et de l'intégration* – OFII) and the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (*Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides* – OFPRA) in order to enhance the range of statistical data produced and disseminated.

In terms of the statistical publications themselves, the Authority also recommends that communication organised by the directorate-general provides a clearer distinction between these publications and the presentation of content from ministerial policies, in particular during the presentations planned each year for the press.

Lastly, the ASP hopes that researcher access to data produced by the DSED will be guaranteed in the general framework of conditions and procedures commonly used within the Official Statistical Service and calls for the links between the MSO and the world of research to be made clearer using solid foundations, including for the dissemination of information about the research work that will be conducted collaboratively.

15 January 2024

## **Statement following the hearing with the head of the Ministerial Statistical Office for youth and sport**

The French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) held a hearing on 14 December 2023 with the Director of the National Institute of Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP), the head of the Ministerial Statistical Office for youth and sport, in the presence of the Director of the Directorate of Youth, Non-Formal Education and Community Life, to which the institute is attached, and the Director of Sport. This hearing came six years after the previous one and followed the appointment of a new head of this Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO).

The Surveys, Data and Statistical Studies Section represents the Ministerial Statistical Office responsible for youth and sport within the INJEP, which is also responsible for documentation, studies and leading research. It uses several sources of administrative data from the ministries responsible for youth and sport, and is involved in developing the information systems from which this data is taken. The MSO also directly conducts the statistical household surveys labelled by the CNIS, for example the *enquête nationale sur les pratiques physiques et sportives* [national survey on physical activity and sport] or the *enquête sur les activités des jeunes en dehors du collège* [survey on activities of young people outside of school], in collaboration with the DEPP, or even the *enquête nationale sur l'engagement associatif et les dons* [the national survey of community involvement and contributions]. It also manages a national barometer of sporting activities.

The Authority found that the INJEP plays various roles depending on the subject area. In the field of sport, it acts as a producer of reference data primarily due to surveys and mechanisms on sporting activities, or even operations that allow it to better understand the scope of sporting activities (equipment census). In the area of youth, it primarily functions as an “assembler”, compiling and highlighting the work produced by the Official Statistical Service in this area and carrying out studies on specific or cross-disciplinary subject areas based on other sources, some of which are also produced within the Official Statistical Service. It also carries out its own statistical activities on subject areas that relate directly to the management of the ministry (after-school and extracurricular activities, citizen engagement among young people, etc.). Lastly, in terms of community life, and excluding the brand new national survey on community engagement and contributions, its achievements in this area have, thus far, been limited, although some statistics and studies have been released by some of its external, primarily non-profit, partners. In this regard, the MSO is planning to bolster its activities in this area in order to regularly produce key

reference figures, publish an overview report on non-profit employment using data from the Nominative Social Declaration and the Labour Force Survey, and analyse new fiscal data from association declarations on the contributions that they receive, taking into account the fact that contributions from private individuals are also analysed by the MSO for the DGFIP.

Given its position covering both the statistical field and the area of studies, the INJEP participates in numerous observatories, which allows it to regularly connect with the various stakeholders in these areas. The microdata is provided to researchers via PROGEDO-ADISP or the CASD.

The French Official Statistics Authority noted that the MSO is fulfilling its missions in compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice. It makes significant use of all the work of the Official Statistical Service for the benefit of its department sections and partners. It also plays a specific role in consolidating nomenclatures in areas such as sport, for which there is no codified European and international feedback of data. The ASP has, however, asked the MSO to comply with the new reference framework for the process of disseminating publications issued by the Official Statistical Service by reducing the time frames for the advance provision of its publications.

The ASP also noted that the INJEP is lacking staff for its purely statistical functions, given the significant growth in the demand for statistics and the fact that the new regional academic delegations for youth, involvement and sport (DRAJES), created in 2021, will no longer be a relay for statistical production.

In this regard, the Authority asks the INJEP to bolster its statistical activities, in particular in the field of community life. It has doubts about the MSO's current limitations, which could, given the Institute's other missions (studies, leading research, etc.), extend to all INJEP activities, as is the case for most other MSOs.

The ASP also asks the INJEP to develop the way in which its reference data is disseminated, by adjusting the way it works in line with the rest of the Official Statistical Service so as to play a unifying role in defining the nomenclatures and scopes used to gain a coherent understanding of sporting or community activities. In this sense, it would be key for the INJEP to invest heavily in the area of associations, together with INSEE. It is also crucial that the INJEP plays a more general first-line role in the agreements that the ministry to which it is attached enters into with the various organisations in the sector in their respective areas relating to data, statistics and studies, so as to guarantee the quality and coherence of the statistical information released in the very diverse and fragmented fields of sport and community activities.

21 February 2024

## **Statement following the hearing with the head of the Ministerial Statistical Office of the Ministry of Culture**

The French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) held a hearing on 11 January 2024 with the head of the Department of Studies, Foresight, Statistics and Documentation (DEPS), in the presence of the secretary-general of the ministry to which the department is attached. This hearing took place two years after the reorganisation in 2021 and following the appointment of a new manager.

The reorganisation of the central administration of the Ministry of Culture, which took place in 2021, placed the Ministerial Statistical Office (MSO) under the direct responsibility of the secretary-general and expanded its remit. Its original statistical functions have been supplemented with those that were previously performed by other directorates, and the department is now structured around four pillars and one section that does not perform statistical tasks. The four pillars are “Cultural economics,” “Cultural socialisation and participation,” “Regional cultural dynamics,” and “Employment, professions and training,” plus the documentary policy section. The expansion of its statistical production functions required an increase in the department’s staff numbers, which rose from 20 to 46. This reorganisation also led to the re-establishment of a ministerial study committee, which holds meetings to discuss the needs of the administrative directorates in terms of statistics, studies and research and to prioritise the work that the MSO wants to achieve as part of its annual work programme.

To meet these needs, the DEPS implements a series of actions that give it access to the data required for its work. As regards its own surveys, in particular the ten-year cultural pursuits survey, it has introduced question modules into the surveys run by the Official Statistical Service and now uses the data produced outside of the service, which it gathers from a broad range of sources and has started to assess, in particular for its annual publication of “Key culture figures”. This has increased its access to external sources, which now include various bodies, such as Urssaf Caisse nationale, the Directorate-General for Public Finance (DGFIP), the *Centre national du cinéma et de l’image animée* (National Centre for Cinema and Moving Pictures – CNC), the *Association pour le soutien du théâtre privé* (Private Theatre Support Association – ASTP) and the *Centre national de la musique* (National Music Centre – CNM). Here, the Authority specifically noted the recent, highly anticipated statistics on live events produced by gathering and processing data from ticket sales.

The ASP noted that the MSO is fulfilling its missions in compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice. Nationally, it developed numerous partnerships, in particular within the Official Statistical Service. In the cultural field, it played a key role in preparing for the overhaul of the French classification of economic activities (NAF), associated with the update of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE). Although its statistics are not directly subject to a European regulation, it also participates in working groups at European and international level.

The DEPS publications are clearly identified as recently shown by the publication on statistics for live events which gave rise to a presentation to the press. However, the ASP believes that the advance release time frames at the DEPS could be reduced a little to bring them in line with the rest of the Official Statistical Service.

For several years, the DEPS has been forging links with the field of research by developing research-leading skills, including launching calls for research projects or organising scientific symposiums. It makes its data available to researchers by means of agreements or use of the Adisp-Progedo system (Data Archives from Official Statistics – Data Production and Management).

The Authority encourages the MSO to develop joint work with the Official Statistical Service, and in particular with the National Institute of Youth and Non-Formal Education (INJEP), so as to provide greater insights into the various aspects of association activity.

The main issue for cultural statistics, which has specific activities, stakeholders and nomenclatures, is still the fragmentation and variety of the bodies that produce administrative data, which are at very different levels of maturity and progress in terms of the processing and dissemination of this information. Here, the ASP recommends that the DEPS continue and further its assessment of external sources presented in the annual publication on “key culture figures”. It also asks it to take a quick look, together with the *Bibliothèque nationale de France* (French National Library), at how it can continue to regularly produce statistics on the work that leads to a legal submission, going beyond the mere provision of open data, and to continue its contact with the data-producing organisations likely to make progress in terms of the recognition or labelling processes recommended by the ASP.

The Authority also asked the INSEE Internal Audit Unit to set up a project in 2024 for statistical information on the cultural sector and the ways in which it is coordinated, following which new recommendations involving the DEPS could be issued.

# ANNEXE 6 : Opinions on the renewal of labelling

16 November 2023

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

Text 101 of 121

## Opinions and Communications

### MISCELLANEOUS OPINIONS

MINISTRY FOR THE ECONOMY, FINANCE  
AND INDUSTRIAL AND DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

**Opinion of 8 November 2023 of the French Official Statistics Authority on the renewal of labelling for the quarterly statistics on the price of housing both within and outside of the Île-de-France region.**

*NOR: ECOO2330040V*

Having regard to the opinion of 10 April 2018 of the French Official Statistics Authority on the labelling of the quarterly statistics on the price of housing outside of the Île-de-France region;

Having regard to the opinion of 27 April 2018 of the French Official Statistics Authority on the renewal of labelling for the quarterly statistics on the price of housing in the Île-de-France region.

Having regard to the letter of 13 December 2022 from the Presidents of the Chambers of Notaries of Grand Paris;

Having regard to the letter of 13 December 2022 of the High Council for the Notarial Profession;

Having regard to the opinion of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee of 18 September 2023,

The French Official Statistics Authority renews the labelling of the series of quarterly old housing price indices within and outside of the Île-de-France region, for a period of five years.

In line with the recommendations issued by the Label Committee, the Authority invites the Chambers of Notaries of Grand Paris and the High Council for the Notarial Profession to continue clarifying the role of the various stakeholders, by providing users with accurate information and working more closely with INSEE, in particular with a view to the next labelling operation. It also recommends updating the agreements between INSEE and the various bodies that contribute to the production of these indices, known as “Notaires-INSEE” indices.

The Authority hopes that a document will be published summarising the characteristics and processing methods of databases that constitute sources used to calculate indices, in accordance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

It also believes it would be advantageous for progress to be made in terms of data gathering so as to expand labelling to smaller geographical areas in future, provided that all guarantees of quality are ensured.

Lastly, the ASP deems it necessary to maintain researcher access to microdata, subject to clearly documented protocols made known to all.

It hopes that, when a new planned version of the data processing mechanism for indices is introduced, an explanatory note will be sent to both the Authority and the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee to provide an update on the changes made. Here, it would be interesting to look into the possible integration of Energy Performance Diagnoses into these databases, as a potential additional source of information for establishing statistics on housing.

This opinion will be sent to the President of the High Council for the Notarial Profession and the President of the Paris Chamber of Notaries. It will be published in the Official Journal of the French Republic.

## ANNEXE 7 : Opinions regarding public interest official statistics status



3 May 2023

### **Opinion on the official statistics for general information status of statistical series produced by the Directorate of Social Policy at the Caisse des Dépôts**

Following a request from the Directorate of Social Policy at the Caisse des Dépôts and an opinion from the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee, the French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) has granted public interest statistics status to the following 17 statistical series that relate to pensions under the regional and hospital civil service scheme (CNRACL) and the supplementary pension for State and local authority officers in non-permanent positions (IRCANTEC).

#### **Regional and hospital civil service scheme (CNRACL)**

- Direct pensions
  - Total number of pensions
  - Average age on effective date on which the first direct pension is received
  - Average monthly pension amount
  - Average payout rate after calculation of additional premiums paid or reduction to be applied
  - Average payout index
  - Average duration of pension payout services
  - Proportion of reduced pension recipients
  - Proportion of premium payers
  - Total number of beneficiaries with guaranteed minimum
- Pensions paid to surviving spouses
  - Total number of pensions
  - Average age on effective date on which the first pension payment is received
  - Average monthly pension amount

### **Supplementary pension for State and local authority officers in non-permanent positions (IRCANTEC)**

- Pension balance at 31 December
  - Total number of pensions
  - Average amount of benefit paid (annual for pensions)
- New pensions or one-off capital payments allotted over the calendar year
  - Total number of pensions and one-off capital payments allotted over the calendar year
  - Average gross amount of benefits allotted over the calendar year (annual amount for pensions)
  - Average age on effective date on which the first pension payment is received
  -

A description of these series is given in the document in Appendix 1.

The Authority welcomes the investment made by the Caisse des Dépôts to provide a reliable data selection and visualisation tool to facilitate data analysis and comparison.

The ASP hopes that the Caisse des Dépôts will take into consideration the recommendations given in the opinion of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee attached as Appendix 2 and relating in particular to the dissemination of a provisional timetable for the publication of the statistics used and to improvements to metadata and the associated methods of graphical representation.

It also tasks the Caisse des Dépôts with implementing the recommendation of the Label Committee to ensure clear identification on its website of the series that have been granted public interest status, differentiating them from other data, including in the tables and graphics provided for users.

The Authority also underlines the importance of guaranteeing coherence between the series on three civil service pensions established by the State Pensions Service (SRE) and the Directorate of Social Policy of the Caisse des Dépôts, respectively. It encourages the Caisse des Dépôts to continue to work towards achieving this coherence by adding to the list of disseminated statistical series for the CNRACL and IRCANTEC pensions. It invites it to commit to labelling these statistics by 2027 together with the future renewal of the SRE series labelling. The ASP also wants the data on the supplementary civil service pension scheme (RAFP) to be included in this series in the near future.

As regards the other activities of the Directorate of Social Policy of the Caisse des Dépôts, the Authority notes the importance of statistical information on personal training accounts and the need for close cooperation with the DARES to define, establish and disseminate this information. The ASP encourages the Caisse des Dépôts to take the next step by expanding the strategy to grant public interest official statistics status to this statistical production, in coordination with the DARES. The ASP also hopes that the Official Statistical Service will be closely involved in setting up the professional training information system (Agora) that the Caisse des Dépôts has been tasked with creating and managing.

22 September 2023

### **Opinion of granting public interest statistics status to statistical series produced by Pôle Emploi**

Following the request from Pôle Emploi and the opinion of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee, the French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) grants public interest statistics status to the following statistical series relating to the job seeker allowance and supplementing the statistics on the number of job seekers registered with Pôle Emploi, for which the ASP's labelling was renewed and extended in May 2021:

- Number of job seekers receiving the allowance
- Proportion of job seekers who are eligible for the allowance among all those registered
- Average amounts of unemployment benefit entitlement
- 

A description of these series, with breakdowns by benefit, sex, age and age bracket, is given in the document in Appendix 1.

The Authority firstly wants the statistical series that are already labelled and those being granted public interest status to be clearly identified and differentiated from those in the *Statistiques et indicateurs* [statistics and indicators] collection on the Pôle Emploi website.

It welcomes the fact that the first two series put forward for public interest status are the result of joint work between Pôle Emploi, the DARES and the UNEDIC (National Professional Union for Employment in Industry and Trade) to define and harmonise concepts and that they are included in the quarterly DARES and Pôle Emploi joint publication on job seeker statistics. It notes that the third series relates to the amount of benefit entitlement as calculated based on the beneficiary's salary references, whilst, in its annual publication on unemployment benefit, the DARES publishes statistics on the amount of benefits actually paid out. The ASP asks for a clear explanation of this difference, which Pôle Emploi intends to provide, in the metadata accompanying this series.

The Authority also invites Pôle Emploi to take into account the recommendations given in the opinion of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee, attached in Appendix 2, regarding, in particular, enriching the statistical metadata in order to make it easier for users to access and use it. In particular, the ASP tasks Pôle Emploi with taking on board the request from the Label Committee to provide a reminder of the differences in terms of seasonal adjustment between the statistics with public interest status and the data accessible on its website via a personal request.

Lastly, the Authority hopes that Pôle Emploi will examine the future possibility of expanding the series put forward for public interest status to include other statistical information, such as the

specific allowance for intermittent workers in the entertainment industry, return-to-work indicators based on the Nominative Social Declaration (DSN), or job seeker training.

The Authority will be in regular contact with Pôle Emploi to take stock of the possible expansions, and the possibility of initiating labelling for some of the series in question.

22 September 2023

**Opinion on granting public interest statistics status to statistical series produced by the  
Centre for Risk Studies and Expertise, Mobility and Planning (CEREMA)**

Following a request from the Centre for Risk Studies and Expertise, Mobility and Planning (CEREMA) and an opinion from the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee, the French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) grants public interest statistics status to the series entitled “*Consommation d’espaces naturels agricoles et forestiers*” [Use of natural agricultural and forestry spaces], which comprises indicators on land artificialisation.

A description of this series is given in the document in Appendix 1.

The Authority firstly asks that, along with granting this status, the CEREMA also sends a statistics programme to the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS), and provides a provisional date for the annual updating of the series.

It also wants the CEREMA to take into consideration the recommendations given in the opinion of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee, attached in Appendix 2, regarding, in particular, the provision of information that can be understood by all and showing the characteristics and limitations of the sources used, and the method used to establish the indicators. It invites the CEREMA to look into a technical solution to make this data easily accessible on its portal for all users who may be interested.

More generally, the Authority underlines the importance of providing data to support the regions in addressing their climate change adaptation challenges. It notes that the data policy implemented by the CEREMA seeks, in particular, to contribute to the analyses of the National Observatory for Natural Space Use, which is the main initial partner.

The ASP also encourages the CEREMA to continue investing in the indicators used to monitor the speed of coastline change, which are currently based on a comparison between two periods that are 60 years apart. Updating these indicators using more recent data available for shorter time periods should make it possible to create a time series that will likely, in future, be put forward for public interest statistics status.

The Authority will be in regular contact with the CEREMA to take stock of the implementation of this information on coastal erosion and the enrichment of its metadata.

22 September 2023

**Opinion on granting public interest statistics status to statistical series produced by the Directorate-General for Teaching and Research of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty**

Following a request from the Directorate-General for Teaching and Research (DGER) and the opinion of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee, the French Official Statistics Authority grants public interest statistics status to the series entitled “*Constats de rentrée dans les établissements agricoles du second degré*” [Start of school year in secondary-level agricultural establishments], which tracks the number (consolidated for October) of students on school-based agricultural courses (excluding apprenticeships) in public and private secondary-level agricultural teaching establishments. These numbers, which include students on short higher education courses for the *brevet de technicien supérieur agricole* (higher technical certificate in agriculture – BTSA) and those in preparatory classes for the *grandes écoles* (CPGE), have been provided annually since the 2006-2007 academic year and are broken down by sex, sector (public/private), pathway and region.

A description of this series is given in the document in Appendix 1.

The Authority firstly wants the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) to be informed of the existence of these statistics. In accordance with the recommendations of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee, whose opinion is given in Appendix 2, it also wants the DGER’s statistics that have been granted public interest status and included in the publication “*Repères et références statistiques*” [Statistical benchmarks and references], coordinated by the Directorate of Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Monitoring (DEPP) of the Ministry of National Education and Youth, to be made available on the DGER’s website in the form of downloadable files.

Furthermore, the ASP hopes that the DGER will take into consideration the recommendations of the Label Committee as regards the dissemination of clearer information on certain concepts and definitions and the incorporation into the metadata that accompany the series of more detailed explanations regarding how this metadata is collected and processed.

The French Official Statistics Authority invites the DGER to compile information on students in higher education (BTSA and CPGE) in a summary document in order to provide access that is similar to that possible for secondary education.

More generally, the Authority underlines the importance of ensuring coherence between the statistical information on secondary and higher education collected via the statistical offices of the

various ministries. It also believes that the strategy to improve data quality and integrate the data collection tools of the DEPP and the DGER is a possible option for making progress and that implementing this strategy is likely to pave the way to a labelling process.

The Authority will contact the DGER and DEPP in two years to take stock of the progress made in this area, and in terms of the dissemination of statistics on agricultural education.



## **ANNEXE 8 : Content and lessons learned from the working seminar organised by the French Official Statistics Authority on 13 September 2023 on the “Official Statistics Strategy” for the bodies participating in the production of official statistics**

### **The “Official Statistics Strategy” for the bodies that contribute to producing official statistics: labelling and recognising public interest statistics status**

#### **Content and lessons learned from the working seminar organised by the French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) on 13 September 2023**

##### **I. Reminders of the “Official Statistics Strategy” and the seminar’s objectives**

###### **I.1. The “Official Statistics Strategy”: two procedures put forward to the bodies that contribute to producing official statistics**

Under the terms of the seminal Law of 7 June 1951, as amended in 2008, the “official statistics”, for which the ASP is required to play a regulatory role, comprise not only those produced by the Official Statistical Service (INSEE and the Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs)), but also the data used “for general information purposes” by government departments, public bodies and private bodies tasked with providing a public service.

Many of these official producers play a key role in the dissemination of the statistical information, alongside and most often in direct connection with the Ministerial Statistical Offices in their sector. They may have their own dissemination platforms that are sometimes part of a wider “open data” policy, although there is not always a clear distinction for users between statistical production and the other data provided.

For several years, the ASP has been awarding a “public interest and statistics status label” to certain statistics produced by these bodies based on administrative sources. The requests for “labelling” (first request or renewal) are reviewed by the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee, which comprehensively assesses the quality of the statistical information produced and disseminated. The ASP’s opinions, which are generally issued for a five-year period, are published in the Official Journal of the French Republic. As part of this process, the statistics that have been “labelled” include statistics on the labour market, staff numbers and the wage bill in the private sector, health insurance spending or the benefits provided by certain pension schemes.

This procedure, which sets high quality standards, is set to be maintained and developed further. However, the Authority has, since 2021, wanted to expand the scope of statistical regulation by

adding a lighter and more progressive approach that is both pragmatic and coordinated with the Official Statistical Service (SSP). It therefore initiated an additional process now known as “recognising public interest statistics status”, which along with labelling, is part of the “Official Statistics Strategy”.

In both cases, the “Official Statistics Strategy” is firstly based on the participating bodies sending their statistical programmes to the National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS), which is an essential platform for providing information to and consulting users. It also aims to promote coordination with the Ministerial Statistical Offices (MSOs) of each of the sectors involved, in order to strengthen links between the statisticians at these bodies and those of the Official Statistical Service, and to clarify for users the content of the statistics they produce given the fact that the general accessibility of the data requires both sides to provide the various types of user with better identification and clarification of the productions that fall within the sphere of Official Statistics.

## **I.2. The new “recognition of public interest statistics status” procedure**

This procedure, as a complement to “labelling”, led to a ministerial decree dated 23 December 2022, Article 1 of which provides that “the French Official Statistics Authority may grant ‘public interest statistics’ status to statistics produced using data collected by government departments, public bodies and private bodies tasked with providing a public service. This decree seeks to increase the visibility of the strategy, primarily among bodies that have, to date, been somewhat distant from Official Statistics.

The status recognition process is based on the provision of a detailed information grid: for the series regularly disseminated by these bodies, the aim of this process is to illustrate compliance with the principles of independence and transparency and to document the fields, concepts and methods used. A review is carried out by the Label Committee, although it is less in-depth than that performed for labelling. This essentially focuses on two aspects: specific identification of this data as “statistics”; transparency and accessibility of the way in which the data is made available via the dissemination platforms, and the documentation and “metadata” that go with it (definitions, concepts, nomenclatures, methods for compiling the data, any revisions, etc.). This review is followed by a hearing with the Authority, which addresses more broadly the body’s position within the sector’s statistical production, the projects it intends to roll out and its relationships with the various component parts of the Official Statistical Service (INSEE and MSOs).

The contribution made by the Chair of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee during the seminar (see box below) provides specifications regarding the review criteria chosen for the two types of procedure.

### **Box: Public interest status and/or labelling?**

#### **Extracts from Ms Dominique Bonnans' contribution to the seminar (Chair of the Official Statistics Quality Label Committee)**

##### **1 - Common issues.**

In both cases, the assessment of the Label Committee is a form of support sparking momentum for improvements in quality. These two strategies must be considered opportunities to benefit from external expertise or viewpoints (subject-matter experts used at INSEE or in the MSOs, expert assessment of the INSEE Quality unit in terms of documenting statistical operations).

Furthermore, in the two procedures, the Label Committee's opinion is accompanied by recommendations for mapping these improvements and the body makes commitments to help it make progress. Public interest statistics status can be seen as an initial step towards labelling.

Lastly, there is a need to bear in mind any possible internal leverage effects that these strategies may bring, so as to convince people to commit to work on documentation and quality of the methods. This is truly an opportunity to develop the statistical culture. *Ultimately*, it may be of great benefit to these bodies to take these opportunities. There are no tests to take or audits to be carried out, so there is no associated risk.

##### **2 - What makes them stand out**

Everything depends on the body's ambitions and its level of "statistical maturity":

- either its ambition is solely to ensure that the statistics compiled can be re-used in a relevant way. In this case, statistical metadata is the focus and the status provides structured support and assistance to achieve this ambition. Here, we can talk about user experience. With public interest statistics status, the body can say that it is "transparent";
- or its ambition is to ensure that the methods used are state of the art, in which case the department must be prepared to invest and change its methods, where required. Labelling allows for an external expert to support the body. This falls between advice and peer exchange. It is an opportunity to discuss with experts and the sub-committee created by the Label Committee in an ad hoc way. With labelling, the body can say that it uses validated methods.

Public interest statistics status can be seen as an initial step towards labelling. Below are two examples to illustrate the level of requirements for each procedure:

- in terms of comparability: for regional authority employee pensions, the CNRACL calculates the payments at 31 December; for State employees, the SRE calculates the payments at 1 January. Labelling will encourage coordinated discussions seeking to adopt a single reference framework, which will not necessarily be required to grant public interest statistics status;
- in terms of reviews, which are required to grant public interest statistics status, it is a case of review transparency: what is expected for labelling is an analysis of these reviews with a view to improving the production process.

So, when it comes to a choice between labelling and public interest statistics status, there are two specific cases that lead to a relatively simple answer:

- in the case of statistics for which there is no guaranteed stability over time, owing, for example, to permanently changing regulations, it is recommended to go only as far as public interest statistics status;
- conversely, statistics for which two criteria strongly recommend labelling: contributing to producing European statistics or Official Statistical Service statistics.

For other statistics, the argument based on the workload resulting from the procedure led to the public interest statistics status being prioritised, even if this is not the most relevant option.

### 3 – The questions asked by the Label Committee as part of the public interest status process

The first question is to know what we want to measure and what we are effectively measuring with the candidate series. And this comes back to the challenges of clarity and transparency:

- clarity regarding what is being measured, the concepts (for example use of natural agricultural and forestry spaces or household and related waste). On the (geographical) scope, the field covered (for example bulk wine or agricultural education)? The units observed (for example the concepts of “case”, “patients”, “people”, “findings” as used by Santé publique France), or the nomenclatures used (for example for the long-term illnesses covered by the *Caisse centrale de la mutualité sociale agricole* (Farmers’ and Agricultural Workers’ Mutual Benefit Fund – CCMSA).
- transparency about the reference period under discussion (for example the CNAM’s longitudinal files): whether the methods are stable. Whether any revisions or breaks have been documented.
- transparency about the methods: whether it is possible to access a synopsis and tutorial about the production process (for example, the DGAC’s modelling of gas or CO2 emissions). Whether there are any limits to the measuring tool: gaps between the ideal and the real life, as it were.

Just as important is the question of easy access to the series and its documentation, which is more about issues surrounding the provision of data, for the general public or for researchers, with action required in terms of respect of confidentiality and non-disclosure of information allowing for identification by inference.

### **I.3. The aims of the seminar**

More than a year and a half after the introduction of the new procedure, which now covers over ten bodies, the ASP felt it was time to take stock of the lessons learned and difficulties encountered through a shared assessment report bringing together all the stakeholders: the bodies involved, INSEE, the MSOs, the CNIS and the Label Committee.

It therefore attempted to collectively identify the lessons learned from this first stage and to map its prospects for the future, as part of a broadly open review and discussion seminar.

This seminar was held on 13 September 2023 and also sought to gain a greater understanding of and establish connections between the various experiences, discuss any possible progress, in particular in terms of the collaborations with the Official Statistical Service, and consider the “key objectives” that could, in future, be those of this extended regulation.

It was held over several sessions, punctuated by three round tables: the first providing an update on the process and its value for producers and users of statistics; the second dedicated to options for intensifying the cooperation and coordination between the bodies participating in the strategy and the various component parts of the Official Statistical Service; and the third addressing the “target plan” for the future, in terms of eliminating the difficulties encountered, expanding the public interest status, and establishing desirable connections with the labelling process.

The various contributions and discussion with the audience led to very open discussions of the benefits and the work required for the strategy, in both its dimensions: public interest status and labelling. (The main points of each round table are explained below in this document.) Feedback and proposals given by the speakers and the audience also outlined a number of possible future avenues, focusing on issues such as communication about the strategy, coordination between the various stakeholders, and synergies that could be established.

## **II. Content and lessons learned from the first round table: “Where are we now with public interest statistics status and labelling? How could these procedures benefit the producing bodies and users?”**

Chair of the Round Table: Patrice Duran (President of the National Council for Statistical Information)

Participants: Alain Gubian (Head of Statistics, Studies and Forecasting at Urssaf Caisse nationale), Nadia Joubert (Head of Statistics, Studies and Funds at the Caisse centrale de la Mutualité Sociale Agricole – CCMSA), Pierre Girard (Deputy Director of Studies, Statistics and Foresight at the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation), Pascal Berteaud (Director-General of the CEREMA).

The contributions of the first round table provided an opportunity to showcase the range of situations within the bodies involved in the “Official Statistics Strategy”, in particular, from the perspective of the history of their involvement and their experience in “Official Statistics”. These differences do, however, overlap significantly in the motivations in and potential benefits of this strategy, and in the expectations regarding Official Statistics regulation.

## **II.1. Bodies at different stages of involvement in the production of “official statistics”**

The bodies represented at that round table bore witness to the different paths that can be taken to become involved in the labelling and/or recognition of public interest status processes.

Some of them have been following the principles underlying the “Official Statistics Strategy” for many years and started with the labelling of some of their series. This involved securing recognition of the specificity and value associated with the statistics they produce, which are sent to and used by various organisations (MSA, Urssaf Caisse nationale). In the case of the ex-Acoss, the labelling of these series was considered to be a counterpart to their integration into the production of key economic indicators of official statistics such as employment and the wage bill. The labelling of series used for these represents quality assurance of key importance for these essential statistical productions.

Other bodies that have become involved in the strategy more recently are more insistent on the fact that the production of statistical series does not form their core competency, but instead complements their operational monitoring and decision-making, which are still prioritised as part of the tasks to be performed by their data and/or study departments. This statistical indicator production aspect may, however, be of particular importance for the provision of data to Official Statistics and/or to international bodies (Directorate-General of Civil Aviation, for air transport volumes and prices). Other bodies, such as the CEREMA, have only started incorporating public interest statistics production even more recently, in connection with studies and evaluations with which they have been tasked for the purposes of environmental public policies, and following initial discussions with the Label Committee and the ASP.

## **II.2. Converging motivations for and interest in identifying and recognising statistical production work in a general open data context**

### II.2.1. Statistics offering added value compared with operational missions and open data

The contributors to the first round table highlighted the immediacy of their decision-making assistance activities, with same-day or same-week responses required, which contrasts with the process for establishing reliable statistical information (i.e. information that is checked, corrected and, where required, supplemented by imputed or estimated data, etc.). This requires specific investment from statisticians, which brings its own added value.

Committing to the “Official Statistics Strategy” here requires efforts to be made to improve the quality of the data that these bodies produce: their aim is to improve and lend credibility to the quantitative information they provide for the ecosystem to which they are attached. Here, the expertise of the statisticians seems indispensable in increasing the value of the data that they are working to make more reliable and comparable temporally and geographically.

However, there may still be tensions or even apparent contradictions between the various functions that they must perform (immediate requests for decision-making assistance, contributions to the general open data policy). The “Official Statistics Strategy” is therefore set to complement the official data openness policy. Following the work performed by the statisticians, it should then be possible to highlight the value of the reliable and directly interpretable information and ensure it is clearly distinguished from the rest of the open data disseminated.

### II.2.2. Challenges in internally recognising the workload involved in producing statistics

While this contribution to official statistics is key for the seminar’s participants, it does require a period of methodological investment, implementation and ongoing monitoring, which must be

protected and recognised. This in turn requires that it be identified and defended during internal trade-offs regarding priorities and allocation of resources.

The recognition of public interest status and/or labelling granted by the Label Committee and the ASP help to increase the visibility of this reliable data production work. This is a real asset in internal negotiations with organisations, and helps to prove the merit of the needs expressed and to acquire expert resources.

Within some bodies (Urssaf Caisse nationale and MSA), this internal recognition has been taken further to include the incorporation of this statistical aspect into the objectives and management agreements that they sign with their supervisory authorities.

### II.2.3. Challenges of external recognition and alignment with the sphere of Official Statistics

The identification made possible by the “Official Statistics Strategy” can also help to increase awareness of this statistical production among interested economic actors and the public: it can increase visibility which round table participants said they valued, provided that communication about the “strategy” is clearer and improved in future.

Furthermore, whether as part of a procedure for the granting of public interest status or for labelling, the procedures in place provide an opportunity for discussions between the bodies and their supervisory authorities, on the one hand, and Official Statistics represented by INSEE and/or the Ministerial Statistical Office for their sector, on the other.

In some bodies, such as Urssaf Caisse nationale (and the CNAF or the CNSA), this alignment has led to recruitment of executives from the Official Statistical Service with a view to increasing their expertise and the visibility of their statistical activity. These alignments may also lead to requests for support or cooperation with official statisticians in terms of sampling or conducting surveys, and to changes in embargo and advance dissemination practices, which tend to align with those of Official Statistics.

### **II.3. Recognition of public interest status: a useful crossing point that can, in some cases, lead to a labelling process**

Recognition of public interest status generally appears to be more accessible than labelling for bodies about to commit to the strategy, and even for those that want to expand this to further statistical series, which may initially be more or less consolidated.

It may also be an intermediate gateway into the strategy used by the bodies, as labelling requires additional expertise and quality improvements (see box).

Furthermore, it is remarkable to note that bodies tend to use the generic term “labelling” for both of these procedures. This linguistic simplicity highlights the fact that they are seen as being similar, even though they differ in terms of requirement levels.

In the trade-offs made by the bodies between labelling and recognition of public interest status, the issues of workload and the costs for these procedures are, according to participants, determining factors. They state that the benefit of the strategy in terms of internal and external recognition is not worth the very steep increase in terms of procedures nor the time dedicated solely to statistical production, given their more operationally focused missions of steering or aiding decision making.

In this regard, it is not just the labelling procedure that can turn out to be expensive, but also the requirements that may result from this, in terms of changes to certain production processes.

Conversely, recognition of public interest status may require a lesser investment if the series submitted are already accompanied by sufficiently clear documentation and metadata, and if they are easily accessible via easy-to-use tools.

However, this is far from being the case across the board: the documentation of series may require restructuring work, or even additional data compilation, and changes to the sites used to disseminate the information may pose significant technical issues. Achieving these steps is, nevertheless, essential to progressing to labelling.

### **II.4. Three expectations following the initial discussions**

The first round table and the discussions that followed have already led to three expectations concerning the continuation of the “Official Statistics Strategy”:

- communication from the ASP to lend visibility to the strategy

This communication should initially cover the creation of a logo or a specific “brand”, that is clearly distinct but may be graphically similar to that of the Official Statistical Service, which the bodies will be able to use to identify the statistical series that are labelled or have been granted public interest status; it should also take the form of a specific notification for the press and any less-informed groups of the public to encourage them to better identify statistical productions that have undergone this work to improve transparency and clarity, recognition of which is, as mentioned by the President of the CNIS, a key challenge in creating a broader “statistical ecosystem”.

- better identification of the “Official Statistics Strategy” within the bodies and their supervisory authorities

Clear identification of the “Official Statistics Strategy” within the bodies and in their relationships with their supervisory authorities is important in order to obtain the resources needed for its implementation. Recognition of their contribution to the sphere of “Official Statistics” may help here to consolidate the importance of the statistical offices within these bodies, and should be

systematically targeted.

- the need for support in order to answer questions of granularity and confidentiality being tabled within Official Statistics

The contributions underlined the importance of support from Official Statistics professionals in answering questions on, for example, the higher or lower granularity of the data likely to be provided, given the requirements associated with confidentiality.

### **III. Content and lessons learned from the second round table: “How to promote and/or intensify cooperation and coordination between the bodies participating in the Official Statistical approach and Official Statistical Service? What difficulties need to be overcome?”**

Chair of the Round Table: Corinne Prost (Director of Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations at INSEE)

#### Participants:

Fabrice Lenglard (DREES Director) and Caroline Semaille (Director-General of Santé publique France);

Michel Houdebine (DARES Director) and Cyril Nouveau (Director of Statistics, Studies and Evaluation at Pôle Emploi);

Béatrice Sédillot (Head of the Data and Statistical Studies Department at the Office of the Commissioner General for Sustainable Development) and Laurent Morice (ADEME Data Administrator)

The three “pairs” contributing to this round table comprise directors from the Official Statistical Service and bodies that have recently embarked on a procedure to recognise public interest statistics status for some of the statistical series that they disseminate. Within their specific context, these highlighted the nature of the working and cooperative links between official statisticians and their counterparts in the bodies taking part in the strategy through labelling (Pôle Emploi) or the new status recognition procedure. In particular, these exchanges showed that this cooperation may be much closer and date back further than merely the coordination around the statistical series covered by the strategy. However, it also showed that this could be an opportunity to strengthen the synergies so as to provide the most relevant indicators and to better share tried-and-tested methods and techniques within Official Statistics.

#### **III.1. The specific ways in which this cooperation takes place between the bodies involved in the “Official Statistics Strategy” and the MSOs for their sector**

The cooperative links between the bodies involved in the strategy and the Official Statistical Service sometimes date back many years. They may cover the entire chain formed through the production of certain sources, or be focused on gathering and disseminating specific information.

For example, labour market statistics (job seekers registered with Pôle Emploi), labelled by the ASP, have been produced jointly by the DARES and Pôle Emploi for over 20 years. Producing these statistics requires day-to-day collaboration, with cross-checks performed to prevent errors, and analyses carried out jointly between the two bodies. As the statistical series on job seekers may experience fluctuations associated with the business activity of Pôle Emploi, this joint production is of great importance for describing the situation, identifying problems, and suggesting estimates, where necessary. The recent granting of public interest status to statistics for job seekers receiving benefits and those that do not is a continuation of this strategy.

This in-depth working relationship is also necessary where the statistical field is shared, as is the case between the DREES and Santé publique France (SpF), which each provide information and indicators relating to the population’s state of health. In this case, the collaboration between the partners should make it possible to provide insights into the fields observed and the methods used,

on the one hand, to report on rapid information relays (SpF) associated with the day-to-day monitoring of the population's health, and, on the other, to establish and disseminate wider and more structural aggregate data as part of annual summaries, where applicable (DREES).

Between other bodies, for example, the SDES and the ADEME, this cooperation was established more recently to address a need to collect and disseminate (now highly sought after) data on environmental issues. The Official Statistical Service is required to use information that it does not directly collect to meet the legal or regulatory obligations to provide "environmental" statistics as established at national or European level.

### **III.2. Cooperations that extend beyond labelling and public interest status**

In these cases, the "Official Statistics Strategy" relating to the dissemination of specific statistical series is often only a (sometimes limited) part of the collaboration between the MSO and the bodies involved, as part of exchanges that are intended to be mutually beneficial.

These exchanges have shown that the teams generally have a good understanding of each other, which facilitates the development of cooperation in which they can use their competences to mutual benefit.

In this regard, the bodies expect the MSO to provide Official Statistics expertise and methods. In return, they are a key source of support for the MSOs in terms of accessing data from information systems, and in controlling, understanding and interpreting this dataset.

The cooperation between the DREES and Santé publique France during the Covid-19 crisis illustrates this complementarity, with the establishment of statistical operations broken down and coordinated based on feedback from information systems and the launch, jointly with the INSERM, of a general population survey for which INSEE also provided its technical assistance.

In terms of the DARES and Pôle Emploi, the challenge in this cooperation relates to access to operator information systems and collaboration undertaken to assess integration mechanisms, as part of various bodies established for this purpose (specific evaluation committees or monitoring of the tripartite agreement between the State, UNEDIC and Pôle Emploi).

These cooperative efforts may also cover subject areas that are directly relevant to the missions of the bodies, such as the ADEME's gathering of Energy Performance Diagnoses, the operation and statistical processing of which fall to the SDES.

The formalisation of these cooperations in agreements establishing the framework and expected results is also seen as an important point to be recommended.

### **III.3. An opportunity to strengthen dialogue and statistical coordination**

The opportunity offered by the "Official Statistics Strategy", which allows the bodies to express their own strategy and their plans in terms of statistics, may however lead to synergies with room for further improvement with the MSOs, going beyond the cooperation already in place. Here, incorporating a wider scope of official statistics into the work produced by these bodies raises a need to consider developing the role of the Official Statistical Service in terms of statistical coordination and activities.

Logically, this coordination firstly relates to the series to be selected for integration into the labelling or public interest status processes. While the existence of a European regulation is a decisive factor in this area, it cannot be the only one, and other requirements also need to be taken into account, for example in relation to "raw" information produced outside the Official Statistical Service, yet which

contribute to its own statistical productions, and for which the stakes in terms of adequate documentation are therefore very high. In particular, this is the case for data on energy renovation and recovery in housing.

The discussions also underlined the importance of consultation and standardisation in terms of definitions and nomenclatures, for example in order to assess sectors experiencing shortages on the labour market, monitor unemployed people receiving benefits and those who do not (DARES/Pôle Emploi), or monitor personal training accounts (DARES/Caisse des Dépôts).

In terms of health, there may be a challenge in clarifying the monitoring of certain aspects of morbidity, and consultation is crucial when it comes to preparing for and using major surveys, irrespective of the body (the DREES and Santé publique France) that primarily conducts them.

As regards the environment, a review process has just been initiated regarding the plurality and interconnection of the barometers used to monitor changes in public opinion run by both the SDES and the ADEME, with different approaches and limited personnel. Although it does not specifically fall within the field of statistics with public interest status, this subject area has been cited as an example of the convergence points likely to arise in the ecosystem of the relationships between the bodies involved in the strategy and the Official Statistical Service.

Lastly, it was pointed out more generally that the development of these cooperations will need to be based on the capacity to perform data matching. From the perspective of the public bodies, this practice often currently involves “small” data matching operations carried out within limited legal frameworks. However, in this area, which is key for monitoring and evaluation, the Official Statistical Service has the capacity to perform large-scale data matching that can be used for a range of operations and which may enable it to efficiently support the bodies in their evaluation projects.

#### **III.4. Two lessons to take**

The second round table illustrated the importance of organising links between the Official Statistical Service and the bodies involved in the “Official Statistics Strategy” to develop cooperations that use complementary skills and data sources, and, at the very least, to ensure a higher level of coherence between the statistical indicators produced and disseminated by the public sphere.

The debates led to two clear recommendations:

- on the one hand, the need to closely and systematically involve the MSOs in discussions before and during the public interest status and labelling processes;
- on the other hand, a review of the issues surrounding the interconnection of statistical productions between the Official Statistical Service and the bodies concerned prior to granting public interest status or labelling to the corresponding series; this requirement is one of the clarifications to be provided to users of this data to promote the “Official Statistics Strategy”.

#### **IV. Content and lessons learned from the third round table: “What target plans should we strive for in future in order to develop the Official Statistics Strategy: priority fields and relays to use, change in the distribution between labelling and recognition of public interest statistics status, renewal intervals, revisions, or expansions?”**

Chair of the Round Table: Pascal Rivière (Head of the INSEE Inspectorate General)

Participants: Amandine Schreiber (Head of the Department of Studies, Foresight, Statistics and Documentation (DEPS) of the Ministry of Culture), Marine Boisson-Cohen and Aurélien Fortin (Director and Deputy Director of Studies and Forecasting at the *Caisse nationale de solidarité pour l'autonomie* (National Solidarity Fund for Independence – CNSA)), Dominique Bonnans (Chair of the Label Committee), Pierre Claquin (Director of Markets, Studies and Forecasting at France Agrimer (the French National Institute for Agricultural and Seafood Products)), Damien Vergé (Director of Strategy, Studies and Statistics at the *Caisse nationale de l'assurance maladie* (National Health Insurance Fund – CNAM)).

At the third and final round table, a process was started to examine the avenues to be prioritised in future. These include, on the one hand, examining the sectors in which the implementation of the Official Statistics Strategy may encounter specific difficulties and, on the other, considering the next steps for consolidation and development for the bodies already largely involved. This led to more general avenues as a tentative conclusion to the seminar.

#### **IV.1. Sectors in which reluctance seems difficult to overcome**

The third round table started with insights into the bodies that are reluctant to get involved in a public interest status or labelling process, in particular in the culture sector. To explain their position, which may go as far as refusal, these bodies mainly state the additional workload involved in the procedure.

Reading between the lines of the discussions held with these bodies, it is clear that they believe that this additional workload would not have sufficient payoffs, in particular if they already feel that they are sufficiently equipped and recognised in terms of the methods used to establish their statistics. Furthermore, issues of coordination, which are one of the reasons for taking part in the strategy, may not apply where these bodies have a monopoly on the production of information on their area of activity, as is the case for the National Centre for Cinema and Moving Pictures, for example.

Other feedback shows that some bodies have a different position, but one which has nevertheless led to questions. This relates to bodies who exclusively choose to provide “raw” administrative data that reflects their activity, as they consider this openness a sufficient alternative to disseminating statistical information having been processed to improve or adjust this basic data. However, these sets of open microdata are not necessarily sufficient to immediately build statistical series: it is the work of statisticians to process this data into statistics, ensuring, for example, that the missing data are imputed, that the concepts or scopes are stable over time, etc.

One of the initial issues is therefore to determine who should produce this statistical information if it has proven public interest (bodies or MSOs) and to clearly inform users of this.

There is also a lot of work to be carried out between the network of ministerial data administrators and the Official Statistical Service with a view to improving the cultural integration of the various types of data, and to clarify the information to be provided to users.

#### **IV.2. Bodies for which the road to the production of official statistics is a long-term strategy**

For other bodies, the “Official Statistics Strategy” is seen as an interesting prospect and a project for the future, but one that cannot be implemented immediately as there are steps that need to be taken beforehand in terms of creating databases and/or updating statistical processing chains.

As in the case of the CNSA, situations of this type do not prevent the setup of a working framework shared with the MSO in question (in this case the DREES), with a view to pooling data. The next step, which is the recognition of public interest status, seems attainable over a longer timeline.

In other cases, the difficulties stem from the fact that the data put forward are not the result of a process designed to produce statistics, but are intended for management or for decision-making. For example, a discussion is currently being held between the Label Committee and the CEREMA to identify any statistical series that can be linked to data mapping coastal erosion and the speed of coastline change: transitioning from physical and geographical data to statistical series requires a framework for examination and specific steps.

More generally, these problems associated with the transition from management data to statistics underline the importance of internally highlighting the work performed by statisticians, in order to involve them in IT projects at a much earlier stage and incorporate the necessary specifications and interfaces.

#### **IV.3. For bodies that have progressed well with the strategy, the challenge lies in furthering this by choosing between public interest status and labelling over time**

Public interest status was created from the idea that the labelling process is key for statistics such as those used for the Official Statistical Service's large-volume productions or those sent to international bodies, but has a higher requirement level.

Recognition of public interest status may therefore, as shown during the first round table, also be seen as an intermediary "gateway" for bodies that are only planning labelling for a limited number of their statistical series or as part of a possible second step.

For the bodies that have already obtained labelling for some of the statistical series that they produce, applying for public interest status may be a useful addition to integrate into their strategy for statistical indicators that are less central or more affected by regulatory changes than those put forward for labelling. This may also push them towards a more unified vision, including statistics that are not produced centrally at a single point within the body, such as those on workplace accidents or occupational diseases at the CNAM.

Public interest status is granted on the basis of a minimum set of requirements deemed necessary to support an appropriate dissemination of statistical series from the public sphere, namely information that is accessible, clear, interpretable and correctly documented. The review performed by the Label Committee for this purpose can be used as a tool to improve and strengthen the dissemination policy in place at these public bodies.

Here, the argument of the workload involved in the labelling procedure is undoubtedly the most relevant in the long term, as noted by the Label Committee, and it would be beneficial to give greater consideration to the specific contribution that each of these two processes can make to improving the statistics disseminated.

In this way, the "Official Statistics Strategy" can offer the bodies the opportunity to revisit all the ways they disseminate their statistics by specifying, for example in the contracts of objectives that they sign with their supervisory authorities, the trade-offs that need to be performed in terms of improving the provision and statistical quality of their series.

#### **IV.4. Initial lessons learned about the conditions for developing the "Official Statistics Strategy" in future**

The findings from the discussions revolve around mapping changing official statistics, with a gradient in terms of requirement level and status, both for the planned surveys submitted for CNIS opinion and the statistical series examined within the Official Statistics Authority. This involves regularly considering the connection between these productions, how they complement each other, their

coherence, their added value, etc. Several lessons can be taken from this regarding the prospects for developing the “Official Statistics Strategy”:

- the progressivity and malleability required for the work carried out in the bodies

The “Official Statistics Strategy” can only develop if the stakeholders are motivated to take part and see value in it, which involves a progressive and pragmatic approach based on the interest shown by the bodies and the advances that they could make in terms of adapting their information systems and the ways they disseminate data. Furthermore, support from supervisory authorities, as part of the contracting processes, is also a valuable element that helps to identify needs in terms of specific resources.

- wider coverage of sectors of public activity in which statistical production is sparse or of particular strategic value

Beyond the health and social sector, which is now largely involved in the strategy, priority efforts need to be made to cover the environmental field more broadly, even though there is a need to overcome the reluctance shown by Météo France, which needs to change the way it disseminates its statistical productions as they are currently largely subject to a fee. All possible progress should also be targeted in the culture sector, given the very broad spread of available data. The same applies in the financial sector (due to its strategic nature), following initial discussions initiated by the ASP with Banque de France, for the majority of its statistics that are not subject to European protocols. Capillary action can also continue to be used to enable the bodies contacted to notify and help to convince other players in their field that may be likely to join the strategy. Lastly, requests to integrate clauses on the Official Statistics Strategy into multi-year contracts concluded between the State and the public bodies will continue to be made by the ASP.

- defined terms for examining expansions and revisions

This part of the “Official Statistics Strategy” remains largely undeveloped. The planned procedure here could be simplified for simple requests to extend the public interest statistics status, as the main task of the Label Committee is to check that the metadata is kept up to date and that any recommendations in its initial opinion have been taken into consideration. Where bodies request an extension of the scope of their series with recognised status, a new review will need to be carried out, but with an undoubtedly lower workload than today, as the expectations of the Committee and the ASP will have already been well understood. Conversely, if the bodies plan to work towards the labelling of certain series that have been recognised as having public interest status, the review to be conducted must take into consideration the course to be taken.

- support expected from the Official Statistical Service

While the list of participants of the seminar provides an outline of a collective that will bring the “Official Statistics Strategy” to life, the question of how this collective will be managed in the long-term needs to be answered. In particular, this should make it possible to specify and clarify messages about both labelled statistics and those with public interest status, to share the information and progress about all official statistics more widely, or to answer questions such as those asked about the level of disaggregation considered for the series made available, given the confidentiality requirements and the practices adopted by Official Statistics. Support is also expected to help clarify the rules currently in place under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and secrecy, and, where required, to facilitate the steps to be taken with the CNIL. Lastly, the existence of this network

could promote the sharing of methodological solutions and commitment from cooperations, for example, to perform matching operations for evaluation purposes.

Here, it would be beneficial for the Ministerial Statistical Offices to participate, through their statistical missions and on behalf of the Official Statistical Service, in the bodies processing the data, indicators and assessments associated with supervision of various bodies, and for those MSOs to act as key points of contact for the statistical part of their contract with the State.

## ANNEXE 9 : CNIS 2023 Report



Montrouge, 5 December 2023 – 156/H030

- **National Council for Statistical Information (CNIS) 2023 report**

*In 2023, all CNIS meetings were held as scheduled and with good preparation, and usually combined remote access and face-to-face communication. Despite this hybrid model, varied and sustained communications announcing the agendas and a relatively normal registration rate, the actual committee meeting attendance is lower than the previous year and the years before the health crisis.*

*2023 was the year in which the medium-term programme for the next five years was prepared. The methodology used is the same as for the previous medium-term period, with a greater need to produce more documentation on the origin of identified needs, in particular contributions from public consultations, the numerous hearings, two focus groups (one on the ecological transition and the other on social issues), and the choices made by the committees.*

*The committees were closely involved in the programme consultation and development process. Firstly in spring, to take stock of the medium-term period coming to an end and to identify the subjects that will be included in an opinion for the next few years, based on proposals arising from the needs gathered by the Secretariat-General. Then, in autumn, to review and refine the opinions prepared with the president and rapporteurs of each committee.*

*The Bureau was consulted on the general opinions, which all have a cross-disciplinary nature likely to be relevant to the majority of the committees and which, like the committee opinions, may also guide the future work of the committees and the production of official statistics. The 2024-2028 medium-term programme will be presented in a CNIS plenary meeting in early 2024 and widely disseminated. To complement this, a detailed implementation report for the 2019-2023 medium-term period will be published in the first half of 2024.*

*In spring, the producers' working programmes were presented by the rapporteurs as usual. The committees examined the subjects covered by the opinions for the current medium-term period. A symposium on the multiple challenges of measuring the ecological transition, from an*

*economic perspective, took place in Bercy on 10 May. In autumn, the work of the committees focused more on drafting the medium-term opinions.*

*The working groups continued their activities in 2023, with three active groups looking at the use of plant protection products in agriculture (scheduled for completion in 2024), observing and measuring discrimination (scheduled for completion in summer 2024), and consulting on the revision of the French Classification of Activities (NAF) at the most detailed level (completed in November). Two other groups will be or are scheduled to be created in 2024: one on the consequences for job seeker statistics of the creation of France Travail and the other on abuse of people who are vulnerable due to their age or disability.*

*In addition to disseminating the reports from all its bodies, work and working groups and providing regular information to its public by means of an electronic newsletter, the CNIS also uploaded two “Chronicles” in 2023 giving summaries of various projects for the purpose of educating the public.*

*This 2023 report is split into two parts. Firstly, a summary of the CNIS main cross-disciplinary workstreams for this year, in line with the guidelines defined in early 2023. It then reviews four areas covering the exchanges between the CNIS commissions and the working groups in 2023, by establishing the following clusters:*

*Social issues;*

*Economic and financial issues;*

*Sustainable development;*

*The regions.*

# Table of contents

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRENCH OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY .....	1
MARCH 2023 – FEBRUARY 2024.....	1
FOREWORD .....	3
STATEMENT OF THE AUTHORITY ON THE PRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS AND ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE .....	5
REPORT.....	17
LIST OF APPENDICES .....	61
ANNEXE 1 : INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND COMPOSITION OF THE FRENCH OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY .....	63
ANNEXE 2 : RECIPIENTS OF THE 2023 REPORT .....	65
ANNEXE 3 : THE MINISTERIAL STATISTICAL OFFICES (MSOS) AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023.....	67
ANNEXE 4 : 2023 MEETINGS OF THE AUTHORITY .....	69
ANNEXE 5 : THE AUTHORITY’S STATEMENTS FOLLOWING THE HEARINGS WITH PRODUCERS OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS 73	
ANNEXE 6 : OPINIONS ON THE RENEWAL OF LABELLING .....	87
NOR: ECO02330040V .....	87
ANNEXE 7 : OPINIONS REGARDING PUBLIC INTEREST OFFICIAL STATISTICS STATUS.....	89
ANNEXE 8 : CONTENT AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE WORKING SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE FRENCH OFFICIAL STATISTICS AUTHORITY ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2023 ON THE “OFFICIAL STATISTICS STRATEGY” FOR THE BODIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS.....	97
ANNEXE 9 : CNIS 2023 REPORT .....	113
I. KEY WORK OF THE CNIS IN 2023 .....	116
1 – GUIDING PRINCIPLES: PREPARING FOR THE 2024-2028 MEDIUM-TERM PERIOD .....	116
3 – FOLLOW-UP ON THE CNIS GUIDELINES FOR 2023 .....	116
3.1. INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF THE STATISTICS DEVELOPED BASED ON ADMINISTRATIVE DATA AND MATCHING OPERATIONS (CONTINUED).....	116
3.2. IMPROVING THE STATISTICAL OBSERVATION AND MEASUREMENT OF INEQUALITIES AND DISCRIMINATION.....	117
3.3. DEVELOPING THE USE OF PRIVATE DATA FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES: THE EXAMPLE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MONITORING AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (CONTINUED).....	117
3.4. THE URGENCY OF THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION: MAJOR MEASURING CHALLENGES.....	118
3.5. OFFICIAL STATISTICS STRATEGY .....	118
3.6. EXPRESSING CURRENT SOCIAL NEEDS IN TERMS OF HEALTH.....	118
II. SUBJECT-SPECIFIC REPORT FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS IN THE COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS.....	120
① PROGRESS AND EXPECTATIONS IN TERMS OF SOCIAL ISSUES.....	120
③ PROGRESS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT .....	128
④ PROGRESS AND EXPECTATIONS IN TERMS OF REGIONAL ISSUES .....	129
ACRONYMS USED .....	131

## I. Key work of the CNIS in 2023

### 1 – Guiding principles: preparing for the 2024-2028 medium-term period

The principle guiding the work of the CNIS throughout 2023 was preparing for the next medium-term programme. By taking stock of the last few years, reviewing the progress made in the production of new, useful information and launching a broad public consultation among users of official statistics, the CNIS has been able to focus on gathering a broad range of needs, using focus groups where more in-depth understanding was required.

In spring, each committee selected subject areas resulting from the needs gathered and falling within its field of expertise, prioritising them as part of the activities of the CNIS for the next few years. Then, in autumn, it reviewed around 10 opinions put forward by the Secretariat-General. The main topics and terms of committee debates are given in the second part of this report.

The Bureau looked at the general cross-disciplinary opinions, versions of which are used in various commissions. This all forms the next CNIS medium-term programme for the 2024-2028 period, which will be submitted to a Council plenary session at the start of 2024.

### 2 – A key working group for all official statistics: the new French Classification of Activities (NAF)

Following the joint review of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE), [a CNIS working group](#), composed of representatives of professional organisations, statisticians from the Official Statistical Service and other public bodies (DGE, Acoss, Banque de France, etc.), and researchers, conducted a review of the French Classification of Activities (NAF), which will enter into force in 2025 and will fit into the NACE. In its report issued in late 2023, the working group suggests a granular breakdown of the new French Classification of Activities, with subdivision of the 651 NACE classes, which will be sent to Eurostat for final validation.

### 3 – Follow-up on the CNIS guidelines for 2023

The following text provides an assessment of the general guidelines followed by the CNIS for 2023.

#### 3.1. Increase the visibility of the statistics developed based on administrative data and matching operations (continued)

Following the report from the CNIS consultation group on the draft **directory of individuals and housing (RÉSIL)**, the list of sources used to develop the directory was reviewed by the CNIS Bureau (June). In the report issued in the summer, the CNIL followed the group's recommendations. An audit is currently being conducted by the INSEE Internal Audit Unit to develop suggestions regarding the way in which the CNIS could take into account the recommendations relevant to it and **issue an opinion on the matching operations carried out by the Official Statistical Service**.

Since last year, the CNIS has been asking producers to state the data matching operations that they carry out (or are planning to) using the Non-Identifying Statistical Code (CSNS). A review is

currently taking place on the best way to report on these operations and the data sources created in this way on the CNIS website, alongside other source types (Official Statistics surveys and files from management data). In any case, the changes will need to wait until completion of the work being carried out by the Official Statistical Service to create a global catalogue of the administrative sources that it uses and standardise the corresponding information. A planned overhaul of the CNIS website will incorporate these changes by 2025.

### 3.2. Improving the statistical observation and measurement of inequalities and discrimination

The working group chaired by Michel Villac, with support from INSEE, the INED and the *Défenseur des droits* (Defender of Rights) on **observation of discrimination** continued its work throughout the year. It addressed the **challenges of measuring discrimination within Official Statistics**, primarily from the point of view of the GDPR with the CNIL, gender identifies with the INED, and physical appearance and social origin, religion, residential segregation, and for economic reasons with the international organisation ATD Fourth World. The group looked at the gathering of information from available sources and how questions are worded in the surveys in France and abroad. Its report is expected in summer 2024.

### 3.3. Developing the use of private data for statistical purposes: the example of the working group on monitoring agricultural practices (continued)

For several years, the CNIS has been promoting access to databases held by both public and private legal entities for the purposes of producing public interest statistics, to complement statistics traditionally obtained through surveys. The recent work carried out by the CNIS focused on monitoring agricultural practices and the use of plant protection products (PPP), in particular.

In 2021, the CNIS set up a **working group on [the use of plant protection products in agriculture](#)**, which is based on the Prophyl project, piloted by the MSO for agriculture. The challenge here is to design a tool to gather data via the parcel management software used by farmers, interconnected with the planned centralised register of plant protection product usage laid down under European regulations. **The use of this software data could be an alternative to collecting data via questionnaires, within the scope of Article 3 bis of the Law of 1951.** Along with the professional and technical bodies that represent farmers, agronomists, software publishers and the Official Statistics services, the group looked into the technical feasibility of using the data recorded in farmer databases for statistical purposes and the legal framework for transmitting this data. An [interim report](#) was issued and released in spring 2023. The project is set to move into a test phase in early 2024. The working group's final report will be published in late 2024, offering an overview of the recommendations and progress made in line with the regulatory changes across the European Union. The involvement and consent of farmers will be key to success.

However, the principle of the statistical changes planned by the working group could be disrupted by the European legislative changes currently taking place, which would remove the obligation for individual reporting of the use of these products. In the event that there is no centralised register nor an obligation for centralised provision of data, there would be very little incentive for software publishers to cooperate. At this stage, the working group does, however, wish to continue with its work and conduct a test in early 2024.

### 3.4. The urgency of the ecological transition: major measuring challenges

The [CNIS symposium](#) held on 10 May 2023 was an opportunity to continue the considerations begun by the CNIS on the challenges of measuring the ecological transition and its economic prospects. It called for deliberation on the need for information and innovation, which Official Statistics must answer so as to guarantee the independence, relevance and quality of the information disseminated. Three sessions (macro-economics and well-being, companies and transforming production methods, household behaviour: incentives and redistributive effects) were followed by a round table on the topic of measuring the phenomena and challenges for Official Statistics.

This symposium provided an opportunity for discussion among stakeholders, for user needs to be expressed and for producers to present their projects and the associated benefits. Attendees were reminded that, while a lot of data is now available to which access now needs to be made easier, more data is still required to monitor environmental transformations and the impact of public policies, to identify the main causes of damage observed, to anticipate the costs and benefits of the ecological transition, to improve information provided to citizens and to help them adapt their behaviour as efficiently as possible. The CNIS 2024-2028 medium-term programme translates user expectations into opinions or recommendations that constitute a series of medium-term statistical priorities (see *upcoming CNIS Chronicles*).

### 3.5. Official Statistics Strategy

The CNIS participated in a seminar organised by the French Official Statistics Authority (ASP) on 13 September with the aim of summarising the lessons learned from the Official Statistics Strategy pilot carried out. Patrice Duran chaired the first round table, which heard several witness accounts from bodies involved and discussed the benefit of the strategy for the bodies and for users.

The CNIS received the working programmes of the bodies contacted by the ASP as part of the Official Statistics Strategy that wanted recognition of public interest statistics status for some of the series they produce. Several of these bodies presented one or more of their surveys to the CNIS (in particular the Santé publique France barometer). This is the start of a strategy that needs to be strengthened and monitored over time before it will be possible to assess its impact on the statistical quality of the operations conducted by these bodies.

### 3.6. Expressing current social needs in terms of health

As part of the European exercise to establish priorities in terms of European health statistics (priority settings), which has been ongoing since spring, the CNIS relayed two European consultations: one with producers and the other with users of European health statistics. The CNIS also participated in a European seminar organised by the ESAC on health statistics, which featured a contribution from the DREES on the place of the Official Statistical Service in the health data ecosystem and on the contribution of administrative medical data to survey data.

Given the priority settings schedule for health, the CNIS will monitor this subject area in 2024 and will suggest consultation arrangements suitable to the French situation, to meet the needs gathered during the preparations for the 2024-2028 medium-term work programme and to translate these into a general opinion issued by the CNIS on health: it insists on the importance

of increasing the visibility of current data, of better identifying the statistical needs that are insufficiently covered and of making suggestions to meet these needs.

#### **4 – Additional information**

In 2023, the committee meetings all took place on the scheduled dates, in accordance with varying protocols: some were entirely face to face, some were entirely via Zoom, and some used a hybrid model. Conversely, one of the four Bureau meetings (specifically the March meeting) could not take place due to the absence of the requisite quorum. The following meetings were an opportunity for discussions within the Bureau on the members' expectations and for suggestions to be put forward to promote their active participation in the work.

The Montrouge visit, planned for 24 March, by a **German delegation from the *Kommission für die Zukunft der Statistik***, led by W. Radermacher, responsible for reviewing the development of a prospective Official Statistics programme, finally took place remotely. It was held over two half-days. The President of the CNIS, a committee president, another member of the CNIS, the Secretariat-General, several INSEE managers and an MSO Head presented various aspects of the role played by the CNIS in defining work programmes and guidelines for Official Statistics.

The **symposium on “*mesurer la transition écologique : perspectives économiques* [measuring the ecological transition: economic prospects]** was postponed by two months due to industrial action in March and was held as a face-to-face, one-day event on 10 May in Bercy. It brought together almost 200 participants at the event itself, with many more joining remotely (using a live video connection, with a recording also available on [cnis.fr](https://cnis.fr)).

The **subject-specific committees** (14 public meetings over the year) were attended by an average of 30 people (excluding the CNIS Secretary-General). Participation is down compared with pre-pandemic years, despite the possibility of attending remotely via video-conference. The **CNERP** held two hybrid meetings, reports of which are given here.

The **three working groups** (plant protection products, discrimination, NAF) met regularly throughout the year (or part thereof), with a total of 10 plenary meetings, plus steering or subgroup meetings. The new working group on the impact of the provisions of the French Full Employment Law on job seeker statistics met for the first time on 18 December. Lastly, on 13 December, the Bureau reviewed the mandate for setting up a working group in 2024 to look at abuse and ill-treatment.

## II. Subject-specific report following discussions in the committees and working groups

### 1 Progress and expectations in terms of social issues

(“Employment, Qualifications and Earnings from Work”, “Demographics and Social Issues”, “Public Services and Services for the Public” committees and the National Population Census Evaluation Committee)

During its spring session, **the Employment, Qualifications and Earnings from Work committee reviewed awareness of non-wage benefits** (*Committee medium-term opinion No 9*).

The DARES firstly presented the **updated Professional Families Classification (FAP)**, which is in line with the PCS 2020 (Professions and Socio-professional Categories), strengthens the cross-disciplinary FAPs and reduces the sector-specific FAPs.

The DARES and INSEE jointly presented an **overview of the mechanisms for employment benefits**. Three main sources are used: administrative data (DSN), Ecmoss surveys on labour cost and structure of earnings (*Enquête sur le coût de la main-d’œuvre et la structure des salaires*) and the annual Acemo-Pipa survey on employee profit-sharing, incentive plans and company savings plans (*Enquête sur la Participation, Intéressement, et l’éPArgne d’entreprise*).

21% of total gross remuneration is composed of variable elements, mainly bonuses. 9 in 10 employees receive variable elements of remuneration and 1 in 2 has an employee savings plan. Employee savings plans represent 6% of remuneration in companies with over 10 employees. Purchasing power bonuses affect 1 in 3 employees, and are exempt from tax and contributions, at an average amount of 800 euro. Around 13% of employees receive benefits in kind, especially in the private sector, accounting for 0.6% of the wage bill.

**Member of Parliament Louis Margueritte** then presented the **work carried out by the National Assembly’s fact-finding mission on value sharing**. He congratulated the Official Statistical Service for this work, which has made it possible to draw up a very complete overview of the structure of remuneration in France. However, sharing value between employees, shareholders and investment is not documented with enough detail, while there is much debate on this issue. The mission also laments the lack of work on the breakdown of value sharing mechanisms by employee category and wage level.

The debates underlined the benefit of referring to the report of the CNIS working group on the cost of capital. The interest in a sector-based breakdown has been confirmed, given the specificity of the situation in industry and finance. On the one hand, the concentration of value sharing tools for the highest incomes warrants more precise studies into the executive management of the largest companies. On the other hand, while it is understood that the highest incomes benefit the most from these mechanisms, the question remains as to whether they permeate across all employees.

**The CNIS welcomed the work undertaken by Official Statistics to better define and monitor employment benefit mechanisms, their weighting as a proportion of total remuneration, and how they develop. It encourages efforts to continue measuring the possible short- and**

**medium-term substitution effects between the various mechanisms and recommends adopting a measure of labour compensation that is as complete and up to date as possible, at various levels of observation and economic analysis, which alone is able to assess the fiscal and social impact of these non-wage benefits.**

During its autumn session, the committee drew up medium-term opinions and took note of the setup of a new **CNIS working group on the impact of the creation of France Travail** (French Full Employment Law of 14 November 2023) on statistics on job seekers registered with Pôle Emploi, which had been validated by the Bureau beforehand, for scheduling reasons. The aim of this group is to study how to report, within the published statistics, on the expansion of the group of people registered with Pôle Emploi during and after the transitional phase, to suggest analysis tools to make it easier to interpret changes in the statistics produced, to examine the possibility of backcasting series to ensure consistency over time, and to suggest ways of disseminating the job seeker statistics in a way that ensures that the public is informed in the right way. It will return its findings in summer 2024.

The **medium-term opinions** of the committee for 2024 to 2028 show the importance that it places on building and expanding cohorts and panels, and enriching these by matching with information from administrative sources. These opinions also underline the need for cooperation between producers so as to achieve this given the search for new sources of data. The 10 opinions cover four subject areas: generational challenges; working conditions; ecological transition, digital transformation and employment and training; and sectors in development (social economics and personal services).

**The Demographics and Social Issues committee firstly looked at monitoring the development of digital technology and its social effects** (*Committee medium-term opinion No 8*).

INSEE firstly presented the household survey on information and communication technology, set up in 2007 in response to a European regulation on understanding equipment and uses in this area. According to this source, 17% of the population is digitally illiterate, and a third of adults do not carry out administrative processes online.

The digital barometer established by the Consumer Research and Documentation Centre (*Centre de recherche et de documentation sur la consommation* – CREDOC) defines and measures the concept of the digital divide based on three dimensions: access, mastery of the necessary skills, and capacity to increase well-being and promote ability to take action. According to the barometer, 9% of people aged 12 or over never use the internet and 23% of internet users do not feel competent.

For the UNAF (National Union of Family Associations), digital technology has changed enormously, with parents and children using it very differently, which calls for digital support for parents. It laments that not all members of the household are asked the questions during the surveys, including children. It also feels that it would be essential to be able to compare what parents say about how their children use this technology against what the children themselves say. Lastly, it draws the attention of producers to the importance of maintaining methods of collecting data other than the internet, to ensure all types of household can be surveyed.

**The CNIS welcomed the efforts made by the producers, which have made it possible to understand both how digital technology is used and the criteria, degrees and factors of the digital divide. It believes that Official Statistics should continue its efforts to measure the social**

effects of the development of digital technology in the future. It encourages the research world and study bodies to contribute to this. It also recommends closer dialogue between producers on how questions are formulated, which has become difficult due to the very rapid development of digital tools.

**The decree listing the sources used for the future RÉSIL statistical directory of individuals and housing was then presented** by the project manager (INSEE), in accordance with the recommendation from the consultation group that met under CNIS leadership in 2022 to discuss the project. RÉSIL comprises two statistical directories, one on individuals and the other on housing, which are continuously updated with births and deaths and the sources used to build the directory. RÉSIL provides three services: hosting administrative sources, producing reference universes and producing files enriched by matching. **The committee issued a favourable opinion** on the list of sources that will be used for the RÉSIL at its launch in 2025: The National Directory for the Identification of Natural Persons (RNIPP), fiscal sources, CAF and MSA, “Tous salariés” [all employees] database and the PASRAU system, higher education enrolment, communities directory and control survey.

During the debate that followed the presentation of the 2019-2023 medium-term programme report for the committee, the UNAF wanted a detailed description of family trajectories (couples forming, birth of children, separations), and of the links between these trajectories and changes in income, trade-offs carried out by households in their spending, and highlighting of room for manoeuvre in an inflationary context. As with the report from the expert group on measuring inequalities and redistribution (2021), the report from the CNIS working group on discrimination is likewise expected to have repercussions on the committee’s work. A lack of information on living conditions of students in terms of health, income and accommodation in particular was highlighted. Lastly, the CGT wanted an assessment, as it is almost 20 years since the CNIS report on standards of living and social inequalities (Freyssinet, 2006).

During the autumn session, the committee gave a favourable opinion on six planned surveys, one from INSERM, two from Santé publique France, and three from INSEE (updates). A post-meeting electronic consultation was announced to conform to a decree from the DGS on the cancer screening and prevention campaign, which plans to follow the CNIS opinion. The rest of the session was **dedicated to reviewing the committee’s medium-term opinions**. These relate to five major subject areas: living conditions, ecological transition and inflation; inequalities; generational challenges; vulnerabilities (abuse, ill-treatment, carers); families.

During its spring session, **the Public Services and Services for the Public committee examined the monitoring of trajectories of young people in the education system** (*medium-term opinion No 4*), and its challenges in terms of assessing educational policies.

The MSO for education presented **the progress made with the pupil, student and apprentice registration system (INE** [national student identifier]) extended to private independent establishments in September 2022. This non-identifying, unique, national identifier is assigned to each young person irrespective of their trajectory up to the end of their education. It must enforce the duty of investigation, facilitate the implementation of social policies and make administrative approaches easier. In order to have a unique and national identifier for students in higher education, the INES (national higher education identifier) scheme was set up. For the

DEPP, the creation of the INE improved the quality of the data collected and strengthened the panel management system. Its work helps to make the census of young people more reliable and facilitates researchers' work. It strengthens data matching between the higher education and school information systems. This is very useful for analysing trajectories and guidelines. The next planned step for using the INE and the INES is to build trajectories so as to calculate indicators on educational pathways.

**A panel of disabled pupils** describes the educational pathways of over 5000 pupils born in 2001, whose families have been surveyed since 2013. The panel was matched with baccalaureate exam files and higher education data. Next, the panel will be enriched with InserJeunes data so as to estimate these pupils' integration into employment.

The MSO for higher education and research (SIES) then presented **the first-year health studies reform**, which established two pathways for accessing health studies: the PASS (*Parcours Accès Spécifique Santé* – Specific Health Access Pathway) requires students to choose a minor subject that will enable them, should they fail their exams, to continue into their second year studying for a LAS (*Licence Accès Santé* – Health Access Degree) or a degree in their minor subject; and the LAS, under which students choose a non-health major subject and a health-based minor subject and can then continue into their second year studying for a LAS or a degree in the minor subject. The first mechanical effect of the reform is a reduction in the number of first-year students, due to the fact that repeating the first year is not possible. To provide a more in-depth assessment of this reform, the SIES created cohorts of bachelor's students in the first year of a health degree at the start of the academic year after obtaining their baccalaureate.

Lastly, one researcher described the work **to assess the long-term effects of the *internat d'excellence de Sourdun*** (a secondary or higher education boarding school of excellence programme) on the secondary and higher education studies and labour-market integration of pupils who benefit from this opportunity. The results of this assessment indicate an effect on baccalaureate results (series and grades) and entering university or preparatory classes for the *grandes écoles*. They must be confirmed by observing degrees obtained in higher education and labour-market integration.

**The debates** underlined the importance of understanding the pathways taken up to employment integration. It is for this reason that the MSOs have developed the InserJeunes and then InserSup mechanisms in which pupils leaving the education system are monitored in terms of their professional integration (type of employment, salary, etc.).

**The CNIS encourages the ongoing progress and recommends developing partnerships between researchers and the Official Statistical Service so that the data produced can be used to conduct a precise assessment of the mechanisms and establish renewed insights into numerous areas of education.**

**The autumn session broadly focused on examining the committee's draft medium-term opinions.** The committee's medium-term opinions for the years 2024-2028 relate to the areas of health, social issues, youth issues, justice, security, and access to and quality of public services. They illustrate the importance that the committee (and the CNIS) places on building and expanding cohorts and panels, and matching these with information from administrative sources. These opinions also underline the need for cooperation between producers so as to achieve this given the search for new sources of data.

In spring, the National Population Census Evaluation Committee (CNERP) firstly examined the collection of the population census in 2023. Collection started more quickly than at any other time since the implementation of a new census method in 2004. The internet-based collection rate continues to grow, despite the very significant growth seen the previous year. The non-response rate remains very low.

This is due to the roll-out of the “letterbox” protocol in which notices providing information about the option of responding via the internet are posted in letterboxes during the first two days of the collection period.

As it did in other regions, INSEE examined the consistency between census data and civil status data in French Guiana, in particular changes in population with changes in births and deaths, taking into consideration migratory flows. It found no inconsistency between the census data and civil status data in French Guiana. For each census survey, bilateral discussions are held between the INSEE regional service and the municipalities, to identify informal settlements. This year, to respond to a request from the local authority in French Guiana, collection took place exhaustively across these settlements in French Guiana and will be repeated next year.

Under the PACTE Law, INSEE is carrying out a pilot known as the “La Poste pilot” under which municipalities can entrust the role of census agent to a service provider. Overall, the assessment of this pilot was very positive, for the INSEE teams, La Poste and the municipalities. As the pilot will come to an end with the 2024 census, INSEE is now planning to roll out the scheme, which will require a legislative amendment before the 2025 census.

During its autumn session, the CNERP examined the new internet-based census questionnaire, composed of components accessible to visually impaired people, tested for compatibility with all devices (smartphones of different sizes, tablets, etc.), and offering access to lists of autocomplete options, thereby reducing entry errors and facilitating codification. This questionnaire uses the State design and will be in production from the 2024 collection onwards.

The results of the 2023 survey on census costs for municipalities show that the lump-sum census allocation (*dotation forfaitaire de recensement* – DFR) now covers a smaller portion of their expenditure than in 2006, when the census was previously conducted. In 2024, the ministry decided that the DFR would not be reduced. Given this erosion in the medium-term and beyond the administrative decision for 2024, the CNERP deems it necessary to clarify the arrangements for distribution of costs between INSEE and the municipalities and to give the municipalities a multi-year overview of the DFR, and is drawing up an opinion with a suggestion of how to change the way this is calculated.

The committee then examined the medium-term opinion-drafting proposals. Several participants wanted INSEE to send an annual map of the municipalities in which the census has been conducted, others lamented the fact that the data disseminated relate to 1 square kilometre grid cells, which are not appropriate for the needs of urban planning agencies in the urban environment.

Furthermore, in response to numerous requests from municipalities over the years for legal population numbers to be available more closely to the year of publication, it was decided to set up a working group on bringing forward the schedule for publishing the census results. The aim is to investigate the possibility of releasing legal population figures for 1 January 2025 in December 2026. The working group’s report will be submitted to the Chair of the CNERP before the committee meeting in autumn 2024.

## ② Progress and expectations in terms of economic and financial issues

**(“Companies and Market Strategy”, “Financial System and Financing Economic Activity” committees)**

**During its spring session, the Companies and Market Strategy committee looked at the challenges of the energy crisis for Official Statistics.**

To address the need to track the origin, consumption and prices of various energy sources, INSEE implemented a survey in late 2022 on the provisional impact of electricity price increases on electricity spending of companies in 2023, the initial results of which were published in late January 2023. Several sources are used to understand the origin of our energy supplies, but there are still gaps in terms of country of origin where intermediaries are used. The flows are measured in order to define a “vulnerability threshold” for these supplies: concentration and diversification are criteria requiring more in-depth assessment. Monitoring energy consumption is severely limited due to the monitoring of the energy moderation plan and European obligations, over a much broader field than industry. Lastly, the crisis has led to significant price tension with impacts that need to be measured, with a new survey (see above) but also with existing tools and the addition of questions in the outlook surveys.

Three universities shared the expectations from the academic sphere in terms of information on energy consumption in order to provide insights for public policies: having data, broken down by energy type, that is even more precise in terms of granularity and temporality. The discussions that followed affirmed the relevance of these expectations and avenues, under the twin constraints of resources and regulatory obligations that may help to overcome some of the reservations from companies in providing detailed information.

**The CNIS deems it advisable to continue producing and disseminating statistics developed during the crisis. It also believes that efforts should be made to prioritise the accessibility of this data for researchers, in shorter time frames, and that there is a need to produce detailed data so as to estimate, at sector level and across France, the change over time in consumption and investment behaviour of companies in terms of energy and decarbonisation. The CNIS will support and monitor the initiatives aiming to seek out and use new data sources (reporting by suppliers, data from energy meters).**

The autumn session of the Companies committee examined the **medium-term opinions for 2024-2028**, starting with a presentation from the Director of Business and Trade Statistics at Eurostat on the **options to improve business statistics**. She recalled the change to the regulatory framework, in particular the CSRD, which requires companies to use common standards for the publication of information on sustainability, the Net-Zero Industry Act, the framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials, and even the directive on the use of digital tools and processes in company law. Furthermore, Eurostat will define a consistent microdata matching work programme in the hope that this will enable the various NSIs to work from common databases, without increasing the burden on survey respondents.

**The CNIS medium-term opinions for the committee** relate to three key themes: the ecological transition, digital transformation and traceability; value chains and business vulnerability; sector-

specific business observation (in particular the social economy, the blue economy and the impact of the NAF revision).

**During its spring session, the Financial System and Financing Economic Activity committee firstly looked at the tools available to Official Statistics to measure the internationalisation of financing for the economy.**

A presentation of the drastic review of Irish GDP in July 2016, due to the **relocation of intangible assets** in Ireland **by multinational companies** (technology and pharmacy sectors) owing to a particularly advantageous tax regime and regulations, firstly showed the need, in the accounting standards, to clarify the concept of economic ownership of production and products of intellectual property.

The analysis of the strategies used by **major companies to avoid tax** may be based on indirect country-specific macroeconomic estimates or microeconomic company-specific estimates via financial accounts or foreign trade data. However, the results differ. Reconciling these figures requires an understanding of the manipulation of transfer pricing via intra-group trade in goods, the relocation of intangible assets to offshore centres and intra-group service imports, as well as the level of indebtedness vis-à-vis subsidiaries located in offshore centres.

The final presentations offered an overview of the statistical tools and mechanisms available to measure and analyse **investments and security holdings in companies**. To kick off the debate, the Centre for Forecasting and International Information (*Centre d'études Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales* – CEPII) summarised the challenges and expectations of users of official statistics in this area. Multinational companies hold a growing position in the economy, but their activities are very difficult to measure and analyse. However, the challenges are significant, whether these are fiscal, financial or economic (response to economic shocks, global value chains, company ownership). This makes it even more essential that Official Statistics makes progress in this area.

**The CNIS welcomes this progress and encourages the Official Statistics stakeholders to continue their efforts to better understand the effect of the activities of multinational companies on the national accounts and the calculation of aggregates, as well as the place of offshore centres in the global economy, primarily through tax avoidance. It supports the European work carried out with a view to developing the European register of multinational companies, in addition to just the financial and non-financial companies active on the financial market, enabling improvements in the identification of the countries in which the securities are held and the origin of foreign investment.**

During the autumn session, the committee firstly produced **an update on the *Data gaps initiative***, an international strategy seeking to improve financial statistical information, its three-phase structure and the progress of the work. Phase 3, which has just been launched, focuses on four main issues: climate change; distributional statistics on households; fintech and financial inclusion; and access to private and administrative data sources.

The committee then examined the **medium-term opinions**. The 10 draft opinions relate to four key themes: the economy, ecological transition and digital transformation; observing a globalised economy; measuring inequalities; and analysing the economic situation.



### ③ Progress and expectations for the environment and sustainable development

#### ("Environment and sustainable development" committee)

During its spring session, the Environment and sustainable development committee addressed the **circular economy and material flows** (*medium-term opinion No 9*).<sup>1</sup>

The MSO for the environment (SDES) presented the current data and the data currently being developed for monitoring the regulatory objectives established for **the transition towards a circular economy and reducing food waste**. Ultimately, the aim is to develop a dashboard. One of the key challenges is monitoring construction waste, which represents 70% of the total weight of waste produced in France.

After recalling the various tasks of **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** streams, Citeo described the mechanisms enabling it to play the role of data collector and data quality controller. This data is then reported to the ADEME and is used to monitor changes in quantities of non-recyclable plastic packaging in France.

Sabine Barles, professor of urban planning and development at Université Paris 1, then discussed the **analyses of material flows at regional level**, their diversity and richness. She welcomed the enriched data used to carry out these analyses, highlighting its limits and suggesting possible improvements. In particular, she lamented that observations were restricted to regional level, as there is a desire to conduct these analyses at departmental or even municipal level.

Accounts of **material flows at national level**, relating, in particular, to biomass, metal ores, non-metal ores, fossil fuels and gases, enable the SDES to calculate various indicators: internal extraction of materials, internal consumption of materials, productivity in terms of materials, the rate of circular material use. Some are subject to an obligatory Eurostat report and are also **available at European Union level**, thereby enabling **inter-country comparisons**.

**Discussions with the attendees** revealed a request for indicators on **raw material balances broken down by major sectors**, in order to highlight the sectors in which circularity could be improved, such as textiles or electronics. Continuing obstacles to spatial monitoring of material flows were also discussed.

In its opinion, the CNIS encourages the provision of data at local level, such as data on flows of goods or weight data on the Family Budget survey (*Enquête Budget de Famille*). It also supports the implementation of a new survey on waste in the construction sector, while continuing to further the use of data collected by private stakeholders in their regulatory obligations, in particular.

**During its autumn session**, two presentations were given on **measuring the environmental impact of digital technology**.

A study carried out jointly by the ADEME and the ARCEP into the environmental footprint of digital technology aimed to measure the impact of the production, distribution and use of the

three main components of digital technology (equipment, network and data centres) in 2020, and estimate these impacts by 2030 and 2050. This made it possible to establish that **the carbon footprint of digital technology is equivalent to that of aviation**, i.e. 2.5% of the national footprint. This study underlines the need to adopt a **multi-criteria approach that is not limited merely to greenhouse gas emissions** but also takes into account the impact on mineral, mechanical and fossil resources, on ionising radiation, etc. The data on networks and data centres are, however, lacking.

The new annual survey for sustainable digital technology (*Enquête pour un numérique soutenable*), conducted by the ARCEP since 2022, seeks to produce reliable indicators that can be regularly monitored over the long term. **Some difficulties remain**, for example, in measuring the lifetime of smartphones (including reconditioned devices), or even in monitoring greenhouse gas emissions generated by companies as the methods used to calculate scopes 1 and 2 in carbon footprint assessments still vary from one year to the next.

Discussions pointed out the usefulness of having contrasting scenarios according to the hypotheses on equipment life time, and recalled the need to also take into consideration the **impacts of digital technology on biodiversity**, in particular on the disturbances to environments by the networks.

The rest of the meeting was given over to **reviewing the committee's medium-term opinions for 2024-2028**. In particular, thanks to the discussions, the challenges relating to biodiversity were more efficiently incorporated into the opinions. **The main subject areas covered** relate to measuring the carbon footprint, developing economic environmental accounts, monitoring the state of biodiversity, changes in water resources, measuring energy moderation, measuring energy renovations in buildings, developments in decarbonisation in the transport sector, socio-economic inequalities associated with the ecological transition, health and the environment.

#### **④ Progress and expectations in terms of regional issues**

##### **("Regions" committee)**

During its spring session, the Regions committee examined the **statistical data that can be used to observe and measure fine-scale commercial dynamics**.

INSEE presented the results of two studies using **geolocation of establishments in order to study the commercial offer at a detailed geographical level**: shops leaving town centre locations is more prevalent in small and medium-sized towns than in large cities. Methodological work makes it possible to identify "retail hubs", taking into consideration the specific features of hubs in town centres and out-of-town hubs. These study scopes then allow for comparisons to be carried out of the commercial dynamics in several towns without having to use administrative zones.

The **land files, enriched by the CEREMA**, distinguish between 38 activity categories, seven of which relate to commercial activities. Matched to SIRENE, this data can be used to better identify and thereby measure the commercial vacancy rate and monitor changes in premises, at building level and as regards occupation. Measuring the commercial vacancy rate leads to questions around definitions and scopes of observation. **The Codata data**, taken from ground surveys carried out annually in over 400 towns in France, is the data most used in the field of commercial studies, although it does have its limits, in particular due to the variable scope of observation from one year to the next. Lastly, **the results of the 9<sup>th</sup> Parisian shop survey**, carried out by the

APUR (*Atelier parisien d'urbanisme*) in partnership with the City of Paris and the Paris Île-de-France Chamber of Commerce and Industry, show the wealth of information that can be used for carrying out a survey at local level. Disseminated via open data and data visualisation tools, this data makes it possible to conduct a detailed study into the situation of shops in Paris and commercial dynamics over multiple years.

**Discussions with the audience** provided a reminder that, in addition to commercial buildings, it was important to observe the flows of shop visitors and to take e-commerce into consideration. Participants also warned of the risk of isolation for regions that do not have the necessary engineering capacity to set up ground surveys and local observatories.

**The CNIS encourages ongoing efforts to measure the different commercial vacancy rates and any developments at local level. It also supports ongoing work to reconcile land files and the geolocated SIRENE database in order to have more accurate and up-to-date information on activity and occupation of commercial premises.**

During its autumn session, two requests for expediency opinions were presented, one for a *Choose Paris Region* survey on tourist numbers linked to the Olympic Games, and the other for CEREMA-certified Mobility surveys, while two updates were provided by INSEE, one on regional employment indicators, and the other on the POS scheme. The rest of the session was given over to **reviewing the committee's medium-term opinions for 2024-2028**, with several themes: regional diversity and specific features, knowledge of local authorities, living and travelling in the regions, and better understanding regional economies.

\*\*\*\*\*

# ACRONYMS USED

AJEC: Activities of young people outside of school, survey

AMDAC: Ministerial administrators responsible for data, algorithms and source codes

ANR: French National Research Agency (*Agence nationale de la recherche*)

ARCEP: Regulatory authority for electronic communications, postal services and press distribution (*Autorité de régulation, de communication électronique, des postes et de la distribution de la presse*)

ASE: Child Welfare Services

ASP: French Official Statistics Authority

ASTP: Private Theatre Support Association (*Association pour le soutien du théâtre privé*)

ILO: International Labour Organization

CADA: Commission for Access to Administrative Documents (*Commission d'accès aux documents administratifs*)

CASD: Secure Data Access Centre (*Centre d'accès sécurisé aux données*)

EC: European Commission

CépiDc: Centre for Epidemiology on the Medical Causes of Death (*Centre d'épidémiologie sur les causes médicales de décès*)

CEREMA: Centre for Risk Studies and Expertise, Mobility and Planning (*Centre d'études et d'expertise sur les risques, la mobilité et l'aménagement*)

CFJ: *Centre de formation des journalistes* (A French journalism school)

CITE: Energy transition tax credit

CNAF: National Family Benefits Fund (*Caisse nationale d'allocations familiales*)

CNAM: National Health Insurance Fund (*Caisse nationale d'assurance maladie*)

CNERP: National Population Census Evaluation Committee (*Commission nationale d'évaluation du recensement de la population*)

CNIL: National Committee on Information Technology and Civil Liberties (*Commission nationale Informatique et liberté*)

CNIS: National Council for Statistical Information (*Conseil national de l'information statistique*)

CNM: National Music Centre (*Centre national de la musique*)

CNRACL: Pension fund for regional authority employees (*Caisse Nationale de Retraites des Agents des Collectivités Locales*)

CNRS: National Centre for Scientific Research (*Centre national de la recherche scientifique*)

COG: Objectives and management agreement

COLB: Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Advisory Board

CoMIS: Ministerial committee for statistical information

COP: Objectives and performance contract

CSNS: Non-Identifying Statistical Code (*code statistique non signifiant*)

ESSC: European Statistical System Committee

CVS Living conditions and security (survey)

DARES Research, Studies, and Statistics Directorate (*Direction de l'Animation de la Recherche, des Études et des Statistiques*).

DEPP: Directorate of Evaluation, Forecasting and Performance Monitoring (*Direction de l'évaluation, de la prospective et de la performance*)

DEPS: Department of Studies, Foresight, Statistics and Documentation (*Département des études, de la prospective, des statistiques et de la documentation*)

DESF: Department of Fiscal Studies and Statistics (*Département des études et statistiques fiscales*)

DESL: Department of Local Studies and Statistics (*Département des études et statistiques locales*)

DGAFF: Directorate-General for Administration and the Civil Service (*Direction générale de l'administration et de la fonction publique*)

DGER: Directorate-General for Teaching and Research (*Direction générale de l'enseignement et de la recherche*)

DGFIP: Directorate-General for Public Finance (*Direction générale des finances publiques*)

DINUM: Interministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs (*Direction interministérielle du numérique*)

DREES: Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics Directorate (*Direction de la Recherche, des Études, de l'Évaluation et des Statistiques*).

DROM: Overseas departments and regions

DSED: Department of Studies, Statistics and Documentation (*Département des statistiques, des études et de la documentation*)

DSN: Nominative Social Declaration (*Déclaration sociale nominative*)

EHIS: European Health Interview Survey

Elipa 2: Longitudinal survey on new arrivals

ENEAD: National survey of community involvement and contributions

ERFS: Survey on tax and social income

ESGAB: European Statistical Governance Advisory Board

ESOP: European Statistics On Population

Eurostat: Directorate-General of the European Commission responsible for statistical information at Community level

IAE: Integration through economic activity

ICCS: International Civic and Citizenship Education Study

LCI: Labour cost index

IDEE: Innovation, Data and Experiments in Education

IG INSEE: INSEE Internal Audit Unit

IGAC: Inspectorate General for Cultural Affairs

IGAS: Inspectorate General for Social Affairs

IGESR: Inspectorate General for of Education, Sport and Research

INJEP: National Institute of Youth and Non-Formal Education

NSI: National Statistical Institute

INSEE: National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies

INSERM: National Institute of Health and Medical Research

CPI: Consumer price index

LCB-FT: Combatting money laundering and terrorism financing

Melodi: *Mon espace de livraison en open data à l'Insee* (My INSEE open-data supply area)

MiDAS: *Minima sociaux, Droits d'Assurance-chômage et parcours Salariés* (statutory minimum incomes, unemployment insurance rights and trajectories of employees)

MSA: *Mutualité sociale agricole* (agricultural mutual benefit fund)

NACE: Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community

NAF: French Classification of Activities

NIR: Registration number

OLINPE: National individual longitudinal child protection observation

ONPE: National Observatory for the Protection of Children

CAP: Common Agricultural Policy

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

PISA: Programme for International Student Assessment

PPP: Plant Protection Products

Prophyl: Plant Protection Products in software

QPV: Priority urban districts

RÉSIL: Statistical Directory of Individuals and Housing (*répertoire statistique des individus et des logements*)

RMèS: Statistical metadata repository

RSA: Minimum statutory income (*Revenu de solidarité active*)

SDES: Data and Statistical Studies Department

SIASP: System for information on civil servants (*système d'information sur les agents des services publics*)

SIBIL: Live event ticket sales information system (*Système d'information sur la billetterie du spectacle vivant*)

SIES: Information Systems and Statistical Studies Sub-Directorate (*Sous-direction des systèmes d'information et des études statistiques*)

SISE: Student Monitoring Information System (*Système d'information du suivi de l'étudiant*)

SNDS: National Health Data System (*système national des données de santé*)

SPF: French Health Authority (*Santé publique France*)

SILC: Statistics on Income and Living Conditions

SRE: French State Pension Service (*Service des retraites de l'Etat*)

SREN: Law seeking to bring security and regulation to the digital space

ESS: European Statistical System

MSO: Ministerial Statistical Office

SSMSI: Ministerial Statistical Office for Internal Security

SSP: Official Statistical Service

Tracov: Labour and Covid

UAJC: INSEE Legal Affairs and Litigation Unit

Urssaf: French Social Security and Family Allowance Contribution Collection Office (*Union de recouvrement de cotisations de sécurité sociale et d'allocations familiales*)

VRS: Experiences and perceptions of security, survey



Publication provided free of charge

**French Official Statistics Authority**

88 avenue Verdier  
92541 Montrouge Cedex

[secretariat-general@autorite-statistique-publique.fr](mailto:secretariat-general@autorite-statistique-publique.fr)

ISBN : 978-2-11-162441-2