

Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Uzbekistan

**Final Report
February 2025**

This report was prepared in partnership between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Union), and the Statistical Office of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), in cooperation with the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan



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List of abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIS	Automated information systems
API	Application Programming Interface
BOP	Balance of Payments
BPM6	Balance of Payments Manual
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interview
CASI	Computer Assisted Self Interview
CATI	Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview
CAWI	Computer-Assisted Web Interview
CES	Conference of European Statisticians
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CIS-STAT	Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States
COICOP	Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose
COFOG	Classification of the Functions of Government
CPA	Statistical Classification of Products by Activity
CPI	Consumer Price Index
EAEU	Eurasian Economic Union
EECCA	Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia
e-GDDS	Enhanced General Data Dissemination System
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FDI	Foreign direct investment
FOB	Free on Board
FISIM	Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured
GA	Global Assessment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFS	Government Finance Statistics
GFSM	Government Finance Statistics Manual
GIZ	German Institute for International Cooperation
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
GIF	Global Indicators Framework
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLOS	Generic Law on Official Statistics
GPS	Global Positioning System
GPG	Gender Pay Gap
GSBPM	Generic Statistical Business Process Model
HBS	Household Budget Survey
HERP	Harmonised European Revision Policy
HS	Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding Systems
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ICP	International Comparison Program

ICSE	International Classification of Status in Employment
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMTS	International Merchandise Trade Statistics
IOT	Input-output tables
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
IT	Information Technology
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ITS	International Trade in Services Statistics
ITU	International Telecom Union
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LOS	Law of Uzbekistan on official statistics
MICS	Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey
MoEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NIF	National Indicators Framework
NRP	National Reporting Platform
NSO	National Statistics Office
NSS	National Statistical System
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OOH	Owner-Occupied Housing
PAPI	Paper-Assisted Personal Interview
PPI	Producer Price Index
PSU	Primary Sampling Unit
SAQ	Self-assessment questionnaire
SBR	Statistical Business Register
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange
SEEA	System of Environmental and Economic Accounting
SESRIC	Centre for Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training of Islamic Countries
SIMS	Single Integrated Metadata Structure
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
SME	Small and medium-size enterprise
SNA	System of National Accounts
SPPI	Producer price indices for services
SSU	Secondary Sample Unit
STS	Short-Term Statistics
SUT	Supply and Use Tables
TSA	Tourism Satellite Account
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFDES	United Nations Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNFPOS	United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USREO	Unified State Register of Enterprises and Organizations
VNR	Voluntary National Review

Preface

The Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Uzbekistan was undertaken in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), at the request of the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (in the remainder of this report referred to as Statistics Agency).

The Global Assessment was conducted by Mr. Taeke Gjaltema (Lead expert—UNECE), Mr. Torbjorn Carlqvist (Eurostat), Ms. Randi Johannessen (Statistics Norway, representing EFTA), Mr. Dario Florey (Swiss Federal Statistical Office, representing EFTA), and Ms. Stela Derivolcov (UNECE), in cooperation with the Statistics Agency's managers and staff.

This Global Assessment was organized following the procedures of the new round of assessments planned for the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, using an adapted methodology based on feedback from these countries and users of previous assessment reports. At the same time, it should be noted that the assessment and its findings are broadly comparable with the first Joint Overview that was carried out in Uzbekistan in 2018 (see <https://unece.org/statistics/statistical-capacity-development>).

The Global Assessment Team carried out a mission to Tashkent in June 2024. This report and its recommendations are based on discussions during that mission, as well as documentation provided by the Statistics Agency, including a self-assessment questionnaire completed by Statistics Agency staff before the mission to Tashkent.

The collaboration between the international experts and the Statistics Agency staff was positive and constructive throughout all phases of the work. The international experts would like to thank the Statistics Agency management and staff for this.

Summary Conclusions

Overall, the Global Assessment team was impressed by the significant progress made since the 2018 UNECE/Eurostat/EFTA Joint Overview of the implementation of international statistical standards and good practices in the Republic of Uzbekistan (JO). There were many positive developments which strengthened the position of the Statistical Agency. Some highlights:

- The new Law on Official Statistics and the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures to organize the activities of the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan” provides a sound legal framework for the development of official statistics.
- The establishment of statistical departments in Ministries is a very good development. The central role in supporting and training these other producers of official statistics, and, especially, conducting audits by the Statistics Agency is important and gives the Statistics Agency a strong position in becoming the de-facto national data steward.
- There is a good coordination of work between producers of official statistics
- The Statistical Agency has a highly dedicated team of professionals, ambitious projects, and support of the President of the country and top management.
- Staff show strong professionalism and openness.
- The renewed website is in this also a good development and together with the various thematic portals a good start for a comprehensive communication and dissemination platform for official statistics. The SIAT system is a very good example of this.
- Users are unanimous in concluding that the Statistics Agency is very flexible and responsive to their needs provides the best service from all government agencies.
- There is a good participation in major international statistical bodies and cooperation activities

The upcoming 2025 National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) may serve as an implementation platform for improving the official statistics, building upon the progress of the current one (2020-2025) and the recommendations of the Global Assessment team.

Later in the chapters, recommendations will be presented to address specific issues. In this part of the report, we would like to show some general points and directions for improvement structured according to the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisation¹ model.

Strategy and Leadership

- The Statistics Agency aims towards a modern statistical office and a mature national statistical system, which will become a national and international centre for developing and sharing best practices. For this to happen, it is important to have a clear vision and values, well defined and communicated internally and externally to all partners and stakeholders.

¹ <https://unece.org/statistics/modernstats/gamso>

- Make the Statistics Agency the synonym of excellence and innovation in statistics (inside and outside the region) and continue strengthening the data steward role in the country.

Capability Development

- Audits are a powerful tool for developing the NSS and strengthening the position of the Statistics Agency. A consistent approach for planning, organizing, and communicating activities and results requires a thorough preparation of the events and experts involved. Priority should be given to process organization. If needed (for content), involve international experts.
- Consider organizing/participating in national and international events with relevant representatives of Other Producers of Official Statistics (OPOS).
- Focal points for statistics in each ministry/statistical agency – establish regular contact network and in-depth training on quality framework, Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and other relevant/overarching topics. At the same time, do not formalize too much – maintaining the network can become too requiring for the Statistics Agency.

Corporate Support

- Consider indicator/result-based planning and budgeting (GSBPM as a possible structure/model) after documenting the Statistics Agency processes.
- Relevant GSBPM/GAMSO phases for the OPOS – documented and mapped in the NQAF.
- At the same time, the GSBPM/GAMSO processes documentation could give an idea of possible future optimization of resources.
- The new methods of data collection and new data sources would require new skills and capabilities in the Statistics Agency and strengthened (human, financial, and material) resources. A careful analysis/mapping/further development of existing operations and skills vs the intended new ones and required skills is necessary. This shift requires transferring and developing human resources (not decreasing the number).
- There should be dedicated unit/s for Quality Management and Strategic Planning (if not there already).

Production

- Specific, well-defined/communicated times of the day for releasing/publishing statistical indicators/data. All users and mass media should be informed. It is a way to discipline both the users and producers.
- Population and Housing Census (PHC) is a priority. Any organisational or other transformations could affect the preparation and organisation of it. These should be planned carefully and if any postponed at optimal time.
- Thorough communication campaign for the PHC: messages, channels, and tools.
- Plan carefully MICS-7 to avoid overlap with the Population Census, both from the perspective of workload in the Statistics Agency and response burden on respondents.
- Analyse and consider/test the use of new data sources (privately held data: mobile network data, electricity, scanner, cash registers, etc.) in the conditions of decreasing the response burden, getting more possibilities to diversify statistical outputs and disaggregation, and dive into the innovative sources by anticipating the expected

changes (shift from survey-based collection/production to administrative/business data). Access to privately held data is also an issue to remember when amending the law on official statistics or other national laws.

Chapter 1: Legal framework and professional independence

Based on best practices from existing national statistical legislations and with additional guidance from World Bank experts, in 2021, the law on State Statistics was amended and replaced by the Law on Official Statistics. Issues that were identified as missing or insufficiently covered or defined were included.

The National Statistical System was established with a central role of the Statistics Agency as the main producer of Official Statistics, and criteria for other producers of Official Statistics were defined. The list of other official producers is not fixed and has been growing from seven in 2021 to ten in early 2024. Based on the Statistical Programme for 2024, these were:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Central Bank | 2. Ministry of Digital Technologies |
| 3. Ministry of economy and finance | 4. Ministry of Agriculture |
| 5. Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Employment | 6. Ministry of Culture |
| 7. Ministry of Healthcare | 8. Ministry of ecology, protection of nature and climate change |
| 9. Ministry of Internal Affairs | 10. Tax committee |

Additionally, statistical departments have been set up at each of these other producers to ensure a more independent role within the government entity. Other Ministries and government agencies were defined as providers of administrative data that (potentially) can be used for statistical purposes.

Article 9 defines that the Statistics Agency shall:

- Conduct audits of the statistical methodologies of other producers of official statistics for compliance with international recommendations.
- Coordinate the development of statistical programs and monitor their implementation.
- Develop, approve, and introduce the statistical methodologies and statistical observation forms complying with international recommendations.
- Implement the priority areas for the development of official statistics jointly with other producers of official statistics.
- Integrate with information systems of state administration and economic management bodies, as well as local executive authorities to conduct statistical observations, establish and analyse official statistical data.
- Develop measures for coordinating official statistics dissemination within the national statistical system.

In line with recommendations and best practices, a coordination body for official statistics has been established, and the powers of the Cabinet of Ministers in the field of official statistics have been defined. Requirements for the quality and evaluation of official statistics are included. Rules for working with statistical data (administrative, individual, confidential) are defined as well as for dissemination and publication of official statistics.

More specifically, Article 8 defines that the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall: *ensure the implementation of state policy in the field of official statistics; determine the priorities for the development of official statistics; ensure the development,*

approval, and implementation of statistical programs in the field of official statistics; take measures to ensure that the area of official statistics is interconnected with targeted government programs. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan may also exercise other powers in accordance with the legislation.

Moreover, Article 22 states that *multi-year statistical programs shall be approved by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and annual statistical programs shall be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.*

It is important that it is understood that to be in line with the Generic Law on Official Statistics, the National Statistical Office shall be in charge of preparing the statistical programmes, in close consultation with users of statistics, respondents and administrative data providers. Other Producers of Official Statistics shall be involved in the process and provide the National Statistical Office with the necessary inputs. Furthermore, the National Statistical Office, in close coordination with the Other Producers of Official Statistics, shall be in charge of reporting on the implementation of the statistical programmes including, if needed, measures for improvement. The reports shall be submitted for opinion to the Statistical Council. The implementation reports and the opinion of the Statistical Council shall be made public.

Article 10 defines the Statistical Council: *The Statistical Council shall be a collegial advisory body for the development, functioning, and coordination of official statistics under the authorized state body. The Statistical Council shall be composed of representatives of state administration bodies, research organizations, nongovernmental non-profit organizations, and national statistical experts. The composition of the Statistical Council shall be approved by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The working body of the Statistical Council shall be the relevant division of the authorized state body.*

However, currently all members are representatives from Ministries and other state administration bodies. It is important that in line with the Article 10 and with Article 8 of the Generic Law on Official Statistics, a broader range of user categories outside the public sector is represented in the Council. The importance of privately held data will increase. It might be necessary in the future to make adjustments to allow for access to privately held data.

Assessment

Overall, the current Law on Official Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan is up-to-date and ensures the independence of Official Statistics. It has actually various modern elements that can be an example for other countries. The strong central role of the Statistics Agency puts it in the position of the de facto Data Steward of Official Statistics in Uzbekistan. Therefore, we can only recommend some relatively minor changes to be in line with and to further strengthen the already implemented changes.

Recommendations

1. In line with the Article 10 and with Article 8 of the Generic Law on Official Statistics, it is recommended that a broader range of user categories outside the public sector should be represented in the Council.

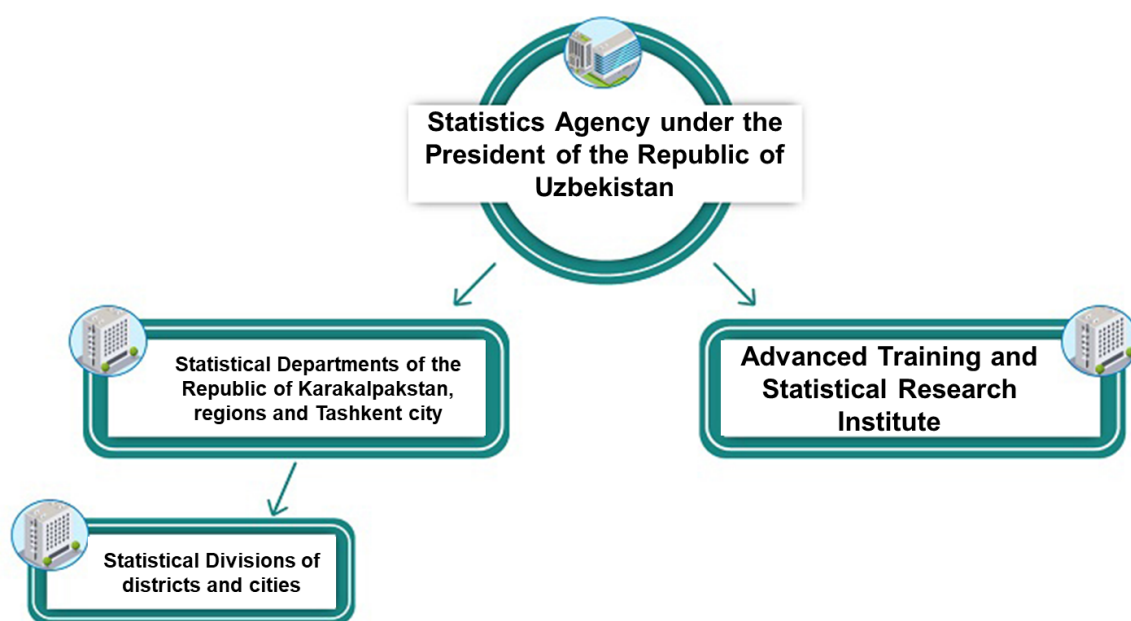
2. The Statistics Agency already has a strong central role, but legislation could better cover a formal data stewardship role.
3. Update the Census bylaw to incorporate provisions facilitating the transition to an administrative census model.
4. Further strengthen the independent position of the Statistics Agency, especially in terms of a more independent budget allocation and a more consultative status of the Council of Ministers and a stronger role of the Statistical Council (in line with the approved multi-year statistical programme and additional upcoming tasks).
5. Promote the legislation amongst other producers of official statistics and potential producers that might need to become part of the National Statistical System and providers of public and private data sources that can or potentially can be used as a source for Official Statistics.

Chapter 2: Coordination and cooperation

Coordination of the National Statistical System

The Statistics Agency, under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, is the country's main statistical body and has the following structure²:

- Statistics Agency headquarter;
- Statistics Departments of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and Tashkent;
- Advanced Training and Statistical Research Institute, and
- District and city statistics divisions.



It seems that the Statistics Agency's organizational structure³ and established responsibilities and roles inside the organization are well-adjusted to perform the NSS coordination role and face occurring challenges.

Coordination of the National Statistical System (NSS)

The country's national statistical system is centralized, with the Statistics Agency as the main coordinating body. The legislative and normative documents set tools and mechanisms for NSS coordination.

Legal framework

Law No. 707 on Official Statistics in Uzbekistan was approved by the Senate on 26 June 2021 and signed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 11 August 2021. The new Law regulates all relations in the field of official statistics. It introduces the provisions, roles, and main definitions, such as "official statistics," "producer of official statistics," "national statistical system," and "other producers of official statistics."

² <https://stat.uz/ru/ob-agenstve/structure>

³ <https://stat.uz/ru/ob-agenstve/structure>

According to Law 707 (article 9), the Statistics Agency is the authorized body to coordinate the development of official statistics in the country and its legislative and programmatic documents and to coordinate the activities of other producers of official statistics. This is the main document to set the NSS members (Article 4), which comprises state statistical bodies and other producers of official statistics. Article 12 of the Law specifies that government bodies included in statistical programs as producers of official statistics are recognized as other producers of official statistics (Ministry of Economy and Finance with Customs Committee, Agency on Cadastre, and Pension Fund, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Employment, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Digital Technologies, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change with Tourism Committee, Agency on Forestry, Ministry of Culture, with Cinematography agency, Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Tax Committee under the Cabinet of Ministers).

The **Decree PP-114 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, “On measures to organize the activities of the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan,” renamed the State Statistics Committee into the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, placing it under the oversight of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This decision is important for the Statistics Agency: it sets the activity priorities and approves its organizational structure and regulations. The Decree has several annexes to set up the details for further activities in the area of official statistics:

- **Road Map** for sets the activity indicators to be reached during 2024-2025 both at the level of the Statistics Agency and at the level of the national statistical system, and
- **The structure and composition of the Statistical Council under the Statistics Agency were approved**, and the composition, roles, and responsibilities were set.

The annual **Statistics Programme** details the statistics, indicators, and publications to be produced during the respective year and the deadlines, responsible institutions, and data providers.

Audits

According to Article 9 of the Law, the Statistics Agency is entitled to conduct an audit of the statistical methodologies of other producers of official statistics for compliance with international recommendations. The **audits of other producers of official statistics** represent an additional relevant tool in NSS coordination. Based on a multiannual plan, since 2021, the Statistics Agency has organized the audit of 3-5 other producers of official statistics each year. The main objective is to review the processes, procedures, and methodologies and their compliance with international standards. An audit report with main findings and recommendations is developed, followed by an implementation plan. Each producer is audited once in 5 years.

Training and various events

The Institute for Advanced Training and Statistical Research was established following **Resolution No. 686 of the Cabinet of Ministers on 17 August 2019**. The Institute aims to provide regular training for staff and specialists from the Statistics Agency and other organizations. Statistics Agency statisticians and invited experts perform training activities

and courses. The courses and curricula are designed for various levels: initial training and newcomers in official statistics, current training, and advanced classes. This fact positions the Statistics Agency and its experts as knowledge reference names for official statistics. It strengthens both the role of the Statistics Agency and the role of its experts in the area of official statistics.

In addition, the Statistics Agency organizes various conferences, round tables, and other events inviting other producers of official statistics and stakeholders. These statistical literacy events serve as important platforms for discussing statistical issues and raising awareness about the Statistics Agency's activity and role.

Coordination of International Cooperation and Donors

The Department of International Cooperation and Information Exchange operates under the supervision of the Deputy Director responsible for digitalization and related areas in the Statistics Agency. It has three subdivisions: A section on open data dissemination and international information sharing, the international cooperation and relations section, and the Protocol service. The Department is responsible for:

- strengthening collaboration with international organisations, other national statistical offices, and government bodies;
- organising events, meetings, and seminars to promote knowledge exchange and capacity building;
- international data exchange; and,
- international activities.

Directly related to the activity of the Statistics Agency and its international relations and cooperation department could be mentioned that Uzbekistan is on 30th place in the Open Data Inventory⁴ out of 195 countries. Among Central Asian countries, Uzbekistan occupies the 1st place in the overall ranking and for data openness and 2nd place for data coverage.

In general, statistical cooperation may be structured at four levels: global (international and intergovernmental organizations), regional (regional organizations and regional branches of international and intergovernmental organizations, development institutions), international (other statistical offices), and national (government, local offices of international organizations, NGOs, academia).

The Statistics Agency is involved in various development projects and initiatives at multi- and bilateral levels. The presentation from the International Cooperation Department and donors and international organizations emphasised the interest and dedication of the Statistics Agency staff and high support from international partners.

The Statistics Agency has good cooperation, international data exchange, and joint initiatives with the United Nations Statistics Division and United Nations regional commissions: UNESCAP and UNECE, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. It also has proven partnerships and various projects with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United

⁴ <https://odin.opendatawatch.com/Report/countryProfileUpdated/UZB?year=2022>

Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN WOMEN, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, and the Centre for Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Education of Islamic States (SESRIC).

Good cooperation and data exchange at the regional level has also been established with the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

At the bilateral level, the Statistics Agency cooperates with the national statistical offices of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Serbia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, the Russian Federation, Georgia, Ukraine, and Turkmenistan. It set bilateral cooperation initiatives with SESRIC and the World Bank.

Statistics Agency experts actively participate in international meetings, conferences, study visits, and events. They are members of various task teams and working groups.

The Director of the Statistics Agency is a member of the International Statistical Institute, SESRIC, CIS Interstate Statistical Committee, deputy chairman of the Bureau of ESCAP Statistics Committee, member of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination, and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and member of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians.

To complement and improve current achievements, the Statistics Agency set ambitious goals and targets for the future. For example, the goal for 2026 is to place the Republic of Uzbekistan in the top 40 with 86,1 points in the World Bank's "Statistical Performance Index" and first among the CIS countries.

Assessment

The Global Assessment (GA) team met highly motivated and dedicated professionals. The team was impressed by the breadth and ambition of current activities in coordinating the national statistical system and international cooperation and donor coordination. The Statistics Agency has a central role in training staff from Other Producers of Official Statistics and conducts assessments. There are however only limited regular meetings with these other producers. The GA team can recommend continuing the current initiatives while keeping in mind the following considerations and proposals:

Recommendations

6. There is a good legal and normative framework, and the Statistics Agency is encouraged to continue current activities to coordinate the national statistical system. Implementing this framework requires defining the institutional roles and refining the procedures. Clear mission, vision, and values – defined, communicated, and promoted internally and externally (other producers and stakeholders) – are key to maintaining the Statistics Agency's central role in national official statistics.
7. Audits are a powerful tool for developing the NSS and strengthening the position of the Statistics Agency. A consistent approach for planning, organizing, and communicating activities and results requires a thorough preparation of the events and

experts involved. Priority to be given to process organization. If needed (for content), involve international experts. Resource permitting, communicating, and sharing lessons learned, main findings, and challenges could be relevant to other countries.

8. For better awareness and knowledge of international standards and best practices, the GA team recommends, where appropriate, organizing/participating in national and international events with relevant representatives of Other Producers of Official Statistics (OPOS).
9. Establish focal point and organize regular thematic meetings with other producers (mixture of formal and informal arrangements) can contribute to better collaboration and coordination.
10. The Statistics Agency experts are involved in international, regional, and bilateral cooperation initiatives and projects. It develops the capacities and skills of the involved experts and raises the visibility of the Agency inside and outside the country. At the same time, the GA team would like to highlight the need to prioritize Statistics Agency needs while leveraging existing resources.
11. Organizing a professional celebration day (Uzbek Statistics Day, for example) can be an opportunity to bring together the members of the national statistical system and the representatives of the international community of official statistics. As practice shows, it is a great platform for communication, connecting the two communities and raising awareness of the achievements and future plans of the country's official statistics.

Chapter 3: Mandate for data collection

Overview

In accordance with the strategy "Digital Uzbekistan - 2030" and within the implementation of additional measures to ensure the openness and transparency of public administration and to increase the statistical potential of the country, the Statistics Agency has created a statistical integrated information system, SIAT (also referred to as "Statistics"), based on best practices of several countries. The system is used for collecting, storing, processing, and presenting statistical data, as well as developing procedures that ensure rapid processing of large big data sources (Big Data). In addition, as part of the primary data collection, the Statistic Agency has developed E-stat 4.0 for electronic reports of data from respondents. Tablets in data collection are widely used after the introduction in 2020 and integrated with the E-stat 4.0.

SIAT is formed as a single database (data warehouse) of official statistics and functions as a single primary point for obtaining statistical data. More than 2000 data sets are available for regions, districts, and cities on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis. In this system, statistical indicators are provided with metadata for correct interpretation by users. The system saves time in searching for statistical and analytical data, as well as reduces the time spent on providing data on requests. Due to SIAT, the use of paper in collecting data and exchanging information has been reduced to zero. In addition, optimized questionnaires are a work in progress to reduce the burden on respondents and unify the data collection process.

As part of SIAT, the mutual exchange of digital information of administrative data in real-time has been introduced. More than 30 integration systems for mutual electronic data exchange have been launched between the Statistics Agency and Ministries and departments (Supreme Court, Executive Bureau of the Prosecutor General's Office, Ministry of Justice, Center for Public Services, Tax Committee, Ministry of Construction, City Administration Tashkent, State Center for Personalization, Center for Electronic Government, etc.). Work is underway to connect to the database of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Tax Committee.

SIAT meets international recommendations like standardization of storing data from different data sources, database management to harmonize and process large volumes of data, generate summary information and visual presentations.

Primary, administrative and metadata

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Official Statistics", chapter 3, article 14 confirms that the primary goal of statistical bodies is to provide the government bodies and citizens' self-governance institutions, international organizations, and the public with statistical information. Rights and obligations of other producers of official statistics are defined in article 15 and confirms among other that the producers choose primary data sources, obtain and collect data required to produce official statistics directly from respondents as well as provide incentives to respondent individuals for participation in statistical observations and establish methods for respondents to collect primary data.

Article 16 establish the obligation of respondents to provide the producers of official statistics with reliable and complete data on a free-of-charge basis in accordance with the procedure and within the time frame established by the producer of official statistics. Statistical surveys are processes of primary collection of individual and other data of respondents, and these processes are carried out by the preparers of official statistics using statistical methods for statistical purposes (Article 23).

The providers of administrative data shall include the state administration and economic management bodies, as well as local executive authorities that provide administrative data to producers of official statistics (Article 17). Providers of administrative data that own databases of individuals and legal entities shall be obliged to provide producers of official statistics free-of-charge with administrative data and metadata to assess the quality of statistical data. Provision of administrative data to producers of official statistics shall be carried out according to the forms and periodicity established in the annual statistical program.

Article 24 ensures that the census shall be an action ensuring obtaining data on the number and structure of the population, housing, the structure and condition of economic units, and other data on a continuous basis. The census can be conducted on certain characteristics and areas of demographic and socio-economic development of the country, as well as carried out in the entire territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan or in certain areas of the country. Individual data of respondents shall be collected according to the questions set by the Census Program approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The article further states that census data can be generated from statistical observations, administrative data, or a combination of both. The decision on conducting a census as well as financing shall be made by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the proposal of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The final data describing the main indicators of the demographic and socio-economic status of the population are open to individuals and legal entities, and they are published in the mass media and the official of the specially authorized state body will be placed on the website (Article 25).

Users of official statistics are informed about the sources of statistical data and methods of their preparation, as well as the quality of official statistical data using metadata (Article 33). Metadata is posted on the official website of the Statistics Agency.

Recommendations

12. Continue the work with the integration of databases with Ministries and departments in order to expand the coverage of statistical data and increase the efficiency of their collection.
13. Continue to consider new data sourced (big data and administrative registers) and if applicable, introduce them into statistical activities.
14. Continue to utilize new technologies in the data collecting process, e.g. web scraping.
15. Consider identifying in the long-term statistical program, new user needs and the costs (resources) of new user needs.

Chapter 4: Adequacy of resources

Overview

Staff structure

In total, the Statistics Agency employs approximately 1,722 people, of whom 240 are based in the central office in Tashkent. The Statistical Agency is highly decentralized and has offices in each of the 14 regions (70-85 employees in each regional office, making a total of 796 employees) and in each of the 208 districts and cities (3-4 employees in a district/city office, making a total of 659 employees). The Agency of Statistics includes the Institute for Advanced Personnel Training and Statistical Research, which employs 28 people. Over the past seven years, the head office headcount has increased slightly, while the regional headcount has declined from more than 2,000 in 2017. District offices are necessary to collect price data and conducting sample surveys.

The recruitment procedure is regulated by the Law on Civil Servants. Competitions are held according to the "Instruction" agreed with the Agency of Civil Servants under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on an Internet platform managed by the Agency for Civil Servants. The final word on recruiting new employees rests with the Statistics Agency.

Financial resources

The Statistics Agency's annual state budget for 2024 is 220 bn UZS, equivalent to around 20 mn EUR. A large majority of the budget (around 90%) is for staff costs. The World Bank is supporting the Statistics Agency with a 50 mn USD loan in a multi-annual development project.

The human and financial resources for statistics in the 10 Other National Authorities for statistical production are as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Central Bank | 2. Ministry of Digital Technologies |
| 3. Ministry of economy and finance | 4. Ministry of Agriculture |
| 5. Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Employment | 6. Ministry of Culture |
| 7. Ministry of Healthcare | 8. Ministry of ecology, protection of nature and climate change |
| 9. Ministry of Internal Affairs | 10. Tax committee |

The Agency has 1,469 employees with higher education, of which more than 1,000 employees have economic and statistical education.

Training

New employees of the Statistics Agency who do not have statistical education undergo internal training lasting 3 months (150 employees received statistical education).

Continuous professional training has been organised for the staff of the Statistical Agency and other producers of statistical data. Short-term courses have been organised for 900 employees. The Statistical Agency also organises training for users of statistical data. English language training has been organised, and 20% is added to the salary upon completion of the courses.

Assessment

The total human and financial resources are probably sufficient for current activities of the Statistics Agency, but the many district offices with very few staff seems to be ineffective use of resources. With a changing role ahead, the headquarters will likely gradually increase in staff numbers and regional and district offices be reduced in size, a development that will become obvious when the statistical system is modified to rely more on administrative sources and possibly other centralised sources of data and less on interviews. Requests from external partners for collaboration for example in conducting additional surveys can put further stress on resources.

Recommendations

16. Resources, especially at the headquarters are limited and need to increase given the changing data eco system and stronger data stewardship role of the Statistics Agency.
17. With the change from PAPI and CAPI to CAWI and from survey to administrative data sources: develop HR plan for shift from changing tasks in regional and district offices.
18. Shift from staff with skills in data collection and monitoring at regional/district offices to analytical and data scientist in central office (e.g. by retraining).
19. More capacity training is needed, including participating by the relevant staff from Statistics Agency and other producers of official statistics, in international meetings and workshops (this includes English language and presentation training).
20. Provide training to staff of ministries (and the Statistics Agency) in all aspects of statistical production.
21. The headquarters of the Statistics Agency should increase staff numbers by reallocating staff from regional and district offices once the balance between sample surveys and administrative data sources shifts towards the latter.
22. The Statistics Agency should be selective with accepting requests from external partners and prioritize assistance or collaboration that is in line with the strategic development plan.

Chapter 5: Commitment to quality

Overview

The Statistics Agency has defined a quality policy and made it available to users in the Uzbek, Russian and English languages. The quality work is part of the Department of Organisation and Methodology of Statistical Works.

There is no dedicated quality unit nor any quality manager with overall responsibility for quality work. Nevertheless, methodological activities are carried out by the Statistics Agency, and it has ambitious plans for the future quality work.

The Statistics Agency started to develop a quality management system with the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM) in 2020. A working group for GSIM has been established. It was also said that no meetings with other producers on GSIM have been held. Internal workshops have been organised by the Statistics Agency and more than 400 of its staff members have participated.

GSIM is the base for development of the annual work programme, for metadata, and for statistical forms. Several reference documents on GSIM were adopted by the previous State Committee on Statistics. These documents have been provided to all other statistical producers:

- Statistical programme development and approval procedures – defines the stages in the work of developing multi-annual and annual work programmes.
- A methodological guide for the development and validation of classifications, methodologies, and forms of observation in the field of statistics.
- A metadata development methodology guide
- Departmental classifier of the system for designating statistical indices and indicators

Statistical report forms

Metadata reports follow the format of IMF and are available on the web site of the Statistics Agency for all statistical products. The Statistics Agency supports Other National Authorities in creating statistical report forms (questionnaires) within their domains of statistical activity.

Audits of ONAs

The Statistics Agency regularly makes methodological audits of and assistance to the Other National Authorities for statistical production. The Tax Committee was audited by the Statistics Agency in 2021 and are working on the recommendations. The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Employment and Poverty and other producers have also been audited.

Assessment

The Statistics Agency has impressive ambitions for quality work, and it seems to know well which direction to follow in future to expand the quality work.

Recommendations

23. Appoint a quality manager and/or establish a dedicated unit for Quality Management and Strategic Planning or strengthen the existing department.

24. Continue strengthening the data steward role. Audits are a very powerful tool in this as well as setting up a quality framework for the National Statistical System and the training in methodological and quality frameworks.
25. Develop a centralized metadata portal at the Statistics Agency (and potentially NSS)

From Chapter 1:

2. *The Statistics Agency already has a strong central role, but legislation could better cover a formal data stewardship role.*

Chapter 6: Statistical confidentiality and data protection

Overview

Article 6 of the **Law on Official Statistics** defines statistical confidentiality as one of the principles of official statistics in Uzbekistan. Chapter 5 is solely dedicated to Statistical data, the procedure of their use, and ensuring confidentiality, with separate articles on **defining** the confidential statistical data and their composition (article 28), **access** of official statistics bodies to administrative data (article 26), and to individual data for official statistics purposes. Article 27 states explicitly that personal data available to producers of official statistics shall **be used exclusively for statistical purposes** to compile aggregated statistical data. The individual data may not be claimed and used by state bodies, or other organizations, including international organizations, for investigation, control, judicial proceedings, administrative decisions, or other purposes concerning individuals, legal entities, or households. Articles 29 and 30 provide information on **who** is allowed to access and **access procedures** for individual data. The law states that all full-time and temporary employees of official statistics producers, as well as individuals involved in the census, are required to sign a confidentiality agreement. This obligation remains in effect even after their duties end or for the period specified in the agreement.

In addition, articles 15 and 16 provide the **rights of other producers of official statistics and respondents** about confidentiality provisions. The producers of official statistics have the right (but not the obligation) to inform respondents about their rights, obligations, and confidentiality of data obtained. Respondents have the right to ask for information on how the confidentiality of their individual records is ensured.

Article 36 on **Publication of Official Statistics** provides that official statistics shall be published in full compliance with the key principles of official statistics, **ensuring the confidentiality** of individual statistical data and providing equal access to all official statistics.

One of the main changes since the last Global Assessment is the inclusion in legislation of definitions for key concepts such as "identifier," "personal data," "administrative data," and "confidential data," along with rules and procedures for their access, use, and publication.

All statistical surveys and forms inform respondents about the confidentiality provisions.

Access to Confidential Statistical Data for Research Purposes

Article 31 of the Law on Official Statistics provides that the producers of official statistics may provide access to anonymized confidential data for research purposes upon request. Such data must exclude identifiers and be limited to what is necessary for the research, with no risk of breaching individual data protection rules. Access to microdata is granted through a contract specifying the purpose, use conditions, obligations, and a fee to cover preparation costs. Researchers are prohibited from attempting to identify respondents, disclosing individual data, or using the data for purposes beyond those outlined in the contract.

Assessment

The Global Assessment team was presented with the necessary materials and examples, and experts from the Statistics Agency, other state statistical bodies, and users were met to discuss how confidentiality is respected. The team noted the progress since the last Global Assessment in the legal framework and would like to recommend continuing the current initiatives while keeping in mind the following considerations and proposals:

Recommendations

26. There is a good legal and normative framework, and the Statistics Agency is encouraged to build a sound implementation mechanism for the confidentiality provisions, such as a confidentiality policy with responsibilities and procedures for protecting personal information. The protocols and legal obligations in the event of a breach of confidentiality rules must be clearly defined.
27. This policy should include clear guidelines and mechanisms for using microdata, and continued collaboration between the Statistics Agency and researchers should be encouraged.
28. Enhance IT measures to ensure robust data security and protection of personal information, including comprehensive safeguards for data collection, storage, server management, dissemination, encryption, anonymization, and routine security audits.
29. Resource permitting, the Statistics Agency is encouraged to study other countries' best practices and technical solutions to guarantee the confidentiality of individual data and the security of information.
30. The Statistics Agency is encouraged to ensure full transparency regarding confidentiality rules, particularly for respondents. Respondents should be well-informed about the confidentiality policy.

Chapter 7: Sound methodology

Overview

The Statistics Agency has tested GSBPM in one sector, industry statistics, where all 8 stages of GSBPM were described. The full national GSBPM model has 8 sectors and 44 processes. The Statistics Agency aims to implement GSBPM in all sector statistics by the end of 2024. They will develop specific software to facilitate the description of processes.

Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO) has been adopted as it is. The statistical structure of Uzbekistan is not yet in the GAMSO model.

Statistics Agency hired a consultant to write up the quality management system with the aim of ISO certification of the ISO-9001 standard, which certifies that the system meets the required quality criteria, is currently close to finalisation.

Metadata

A methodological guide for metadata has been adopted. The basic regulation is article 4 in the Law on Official Statistics. For each statistical product, a metadata form with standardised fields is filled in.

- Legal base and resources
- Skills and ethics of the statisticians
- Methodology
- Accuracy and reliability of the primary information, the statistical methods, comparability of data, and revision
- Features of data, such as periodicity, comparability, and data revision
- Data, metadata, support to users
- Plans for the future: financial and operational
- Contact information at the Statistic Agency

The Statistics integrated information system (SIAT) has been developed on the basis of the requirements of the international SDMX standard for the electronic exchange of official statistical data and metadata. SIAT contains short metadata. SIAT was developed in-house by the Statistics Agency and is based on the STATA software.

Both the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Central Bank document their statistical products with metadata.

Definitions and classifications

Standard concept definitions and classifications are applied. A Russian–Uzbek glossary exists.

The NACE and CPA classifications will be updated and adapted by the Statistics Agency when the CIS Committee has prepared them. Uzbekistan is oriented toward the Russian version of international statistical classifications.

For developing a classification, the Statistics Agency has defined a five-stage process.

Statistical classifications are registered according to a procedure established by the Agency for Technical Regulation of Uzbekistan.

In the session with ONAs, it was mentioned that it would be beneficial if all statistical producers use the same version of important statistical classifications.

The Tax Committee did not agree to use the statistical classification of products (CPA). The administrative register businesses of the Tax Committee will therefore not include the CPA classification.

Registers

The business register consists of a register of legal entities. It does not include entrepreneurs or international organisations. Work is underway to create a new business register that will include information from the Tax Committee register and include entrepreneurs and international organisations.

The Statistics Agency are planning to establish a population register.

Statistical methods

Sampling of households in sample surveys follows a two-stage approach: first a selection of neighbourhoods, mahala (responsible for local services to the population), then a random selection of households from a list of households. In case of refusal by a household to respond, an additional household in the same mahalla is selected. It is, therefore, difficult to measure the response rate in the surveys. Because of the strong social cohesion at the mahala level, households normally cooperate and respond to the interviewers. Interviews of households are conducted with the CAPI method.

Imputation of missing data is made when needed. Statistics Agency mentioned that the monthly data collection was missing for one month. Then the missing data were replaced by imputed values.

The population census questionnaires have been tested by the Statistics Agency. The paper version was found to be too time-consuming to fill in. Questionnaires on tablets function better, but in remote rural areas internet connections are poor.

Assessment

The Statistics Agency has impressive ambitions for methodological work, and it seems to know well which direction to follow in future to expand the methodological work. Examples from other countries have been gathered. This is a very good start. The *mahalla* institution is unique and important for ensuring high response rates and successful household surveys.

Recommendations

31. Continue to develop GAMSO/GSBPM framework, for example, to:
 - a. Move to process-based organization and resource optimization
 - b. For National Quality Assurance Framework
 - c. For estimating budget/resource implications for new surveys

d. Or for Estimating the value of individual indicators

32. Continue to consider administrative registers and privately held data and other non-traditional sources to improve statistics and/or reduce response burden.
33. For example, with respect to business registers, continue the work with the integration with the databases of the Ministries and extend the register with more variables.
34. Obtain the right to propose modifications to administrative registers in order to facilitate their use for statistical production.
35. Investigate cloud options for processing new data sources and new CAWI/CAPI data collections.

Chapter 8: Appropriate statistical procedures and cost-effectiveness

Overview

Statistics Agency has implemented a comprehensive process-based approach to statistical production, encompassing all stages from legal and normative documents to publication. The agency has developed tailored technologies and solutions to meet national and international requirements.

Statistics Agency has established a robust IT infrastructure management framework, incorporating various software like STATA and specialized information systems for data collection.

Data security and cybersecurity are top priorities for the management. To address these concerns, the Statistics Agency has developed a comprehensive information security policy, internal regulations, and employee training on security best practices. To enhance cost-effectiveness, the Statistics Agency likely collaborates with relevant state organizations and agencies in information, cybersecurity, and electronic data exchange. This cooperation probably involves sharing resources, expertise, and best practices. Additionally, the Statistics Agency has partnered with Uzbektelecom to utilize a server in its data centre.

The implementation of E-stat 4.0 has enabled the Statistics Agency to improve its data collection, processing, and dissemination processes, enhancing data accessibility and transparency. However, it appears that the Statistics Agency has not yet established a central metadata repository.

Recommendations

36. The Statistics Agency should continue with plans to move to a more process-oriented structure, including consolidating resources for data collection and acquisition of administrative data and centralising methodology.
37. The Statistics Agency should ensure full compliance with governmental cybersecurity regulations and national security guidelines while maintaining organizational, operational independence and strategic flexibility.
38. The Statistics Agency should identify additional tasks that could be carried out in regional offices, bearing in mind the expected reduction in direct data collection.
39. The Statistics Agency should continue developing production systems that reduce manual work, e.g., the use of refined data validation procedures.
40. Statistics Agency should consider developing a central metadata repository to support the harmonization and re-use of data and metadata.
41. Statistics Agency should develop the SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange) standard to transmit data and metadata to international organisations.
42. The Statistics Agency should consider to further expand to provide data on the open data platform, including to replace questionnaires from International Organisations with automatic data transfer using SDMX.
43. Statistics Agency should consider transitioning from STATA to R, an open-source programming language specifically designed for statistical computing and graphics.

Chapter 9: Non-excessive burden on respondents

Overview

Reducing the excessive burden on respondents is important to prevent non-response and to ensure accurate responses. It can be prevented by making surveys less burdensome for respondents and by reducing the number of surveys and/or questions, for example by combining them. Especially in business and environment statistics, information can also be obtained by directly accessing data sources through APIs or other automated exchange systems. Another important mean to reduce the response burden is to replace (part) of Surveys by using alternative data sources such as administrative or new data sources (Big data, other privately or public held).

The Statistics Agency has already moved or planned to move from PAPI to CAPI methods for conducting surveys and the Census. Response burden can be further reduced by introducing multi-mode collection by offering CATI and CAWI for those that prefer this. The Statistics Agency should also assist or develop jointly with them, measures to reduce the response burden for surveys conducted by other producers of Official Statistic. A good example is the Labour Force Survey conducted by The Ministry of Employment and Poverty that is still done in PAPI mode (see recommendation in Chapter 16).

In 2019, the Statistics Agency started to reduce the response burden by simplifying statistical surveys and by reducing reporting forms (for example, the total number of statistical reports decreased by 33.3%). The Statistics Agency has already started to consider using more administrative data sources and the statistical legislation allows them to access these. Starting from 2023, a system of phased integration of administrative data is planned. The integration of databases of 12 administrative data providers into the information system of the Statistics Agency is now underway and more than 30 integration systems for mutual electronic data exchange have been launched between the Statistics Agency and ministries and departments (Supreme Court, Executive Bureau of the Prosecutor General's Office, Ministry of Justice, Center for Public Services, Tax Committee, Ministry of Construction, City Administration Tashkent, State Center for Personalization, Center for Electronic Government, etc.).

These have the potential to replace surveys or reduce the information collected through questionnaires. For price statistics advancements have already been made (see Chapter 13). Further studies and training are also underway to use Big Data and other non-traditional data sources such as scanner data and web scraped data. This can reduce not only the response burden but also the costs of data collection and allow for more frequent and timely statistics. Moving to an administrative based population and housing census or a hybrid with using administrative sources as much as possible, complemented with surveys for information not covered but such sources will be an important step (see Chapter 15).

Using administrative data sources and new data sources can also lead to new indicators being produced without increasing the response burden for business and households. If new data needs are identified, first such sources should be considered before developing new surveys or before adding questions to existing surveys.

Moving to using more administrative data and to ensuring high quality administrative data sources is complex and needs time. The Statistical Law of Uzbekistan gives an important role to the Statistics Agency in improving such administrative registers and data sources. Additionally, involving the Mahalla system in ensuring high quality administrative data sources is important (see also Chapter 15 on the Census and population statistics). This should

include training of Mahalla committees in the importance of having correct administrative data.

Recommendations

44. The Statistics Agency and other producers of Official Statistics that conduct surveys, should move all surveys from PAPI to CAPI and next consider CATI and CAWI.
45. The Statistics Agency and other producers of Official Statistics are encouraged to continue to identify administrative data sources and to setup statistical registers to replace survey data collection.
46. In Business (and Environment) statistics, it should be considered to collect more data through Web portals or automated access to business administration, accounting, and registers systems.
47. The Statistics Agency should identify alternative data sources and data collection tools, including using scanner data, web-scraping and other Big Data sources and Machine Learning methods to replace business and household surveys.

Chapter 10: Relevance, accessibility, impartiality, and clarity

Overview

Legal basis and general dissemination principles

The *Law on Official Statistics*⁵ (Article 6) sets the key principles of official statistics, which include *inter alia* clarity and transparency, accuracy and reliability, impartiality and objectivity, and relevance. The articles of the law provide, in general terms, that the Statistics Agency and other producers of official statistics will compile and disseminate statistics according to the provisions of current law and other normative documents to meet users' needs.

The *Decree of the President No. PP-114, "On measures to organize the activities of the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan,"* from 4 March 2024 (the Decree), has specific provisions/articles concerning regular communication and dissemination of statistical products using modern tools and media, taking into account user needs.

The Decree also makes the dissemination of current statistical data on economic, demographic, social, financial, environmental, and other issues aimed at meeting users' needs as one of the Statistics Agency's priority areas.

The earlier *Departmental Policy for Dissemination of Official Statistics* was approved in October 2020, setting the policy of disseminating the statistics to users.

The annual **Statistics Programme** details the statistics, indicators, and publications to be produced during the corresponding year and the deadlines, responsible institutions, and data providers.

Inside the Statistics Agency, several units are involved in dissemination and communication activities, and the GA team would recommend considering well-established work protocols and roles to streamline these activities/processes.

User satisfaction and needs assessment

The Statistics Agency conducts continuous online surveys⁶ surveying the level of user satisfaction with statistical data and publishing the results on the official website⁷. In addition, focus groups, topic-related discussions with users, and the annual user survey provide details on user satisfaction and its trends, revealing satisfaction levels over the years.

The Road Map on Strengthening Reforms in Official Statistics (Annex to the Decree) envisages compiling a User Confidence Index in Official Statistical Data (and disseminating the first results by spring 2025), which aims to assess and strengthen user confidence in statistical products.

The meeting with statistics users confirmed the Statistics Agency's well-established contacts with government agencies, the academic community, and the mass media.



⁵ <https://www.lex.uz/docs/6115027>

⁶

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd70voc2RzKi5h0HSg80xaVoMiV8xTgRMDvkgrISofkFssE9A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

⁷ <https://stat.uz/uz/59-foydali-ma-lumotlar/29826-saytdagi-so-rovnomalar-natijalari>

Data dissemination

The Statistics Agency uses various formats and media⁸ to disseminate statistical outputs, indicators, and information at various frequencies and granularities. The metadata can be accessed at <https://lib.stat.uz/uz>, and <https://stat.uz/ru/ofitsialnaya-statistika/metadata>.

The design of the website includes visual dynamic interfaces enabling fast navigation across main statistical indicators and interactive dashboards and provides a link to other related dissemination platforms such as IMF e-GDDS⁹, SDG platform¹⁰, gender statistics¹¹, population¹² and agriculture¹³ census and Open data portal¹⁴, etc. The information on the website is available in Uzbek, Russian, and English languages.

User-friendly access to data and statistical information through various dissemination tools reaches a broad user community. The website presents statistics in a clear and understandable form and is aligned with best international practices. The introduction of infographics and dashboards increases the interactivity and understanding of statistics on popular topics.

The Statistics program¹⁵, Statistics calendar and News¹⁶ and Announcements¹⁷ sections of the agency website are used to inform users of the planned release dates. The Statistics calendar¹⁸ includes all release dates of statistics produced by the Statistics Agency for a given year but no standard daily time for the release of statistical information. The Statistics Agency is encouraged to align with best practices and to implement a standard release time. Changes to publication dates are announced on the news section of the Agency's website, and reasons for such changes are included.

Statistics Agency organizes regular roundtable discussions with higher educational institutions.

There is no pre-release access to statistical outputs by media representatives or government agencies.

Statistics Agency decides whether to react to articles or statements referring to statistical indicators in mass media or on social platforms.

Statistics and Data Literacy Initiatives

Statistics Agency organizes regular press conferences, roundtables, and open discussions with statistical data users, such as students and researchers, journalists, and bloggers. Detailed explanations and methodology details on statistical data and agency activities are given.

The Statistics Agency regularly publishes monthly, quarterly, and annual analytical press releases on its official website, along with quarterly newsletters. These publications include statistical indicators accompanied by metadata and annotations for better clarity and understanding.

⁸ Site (stat.uz) <https://stat.uz/>, Telegram https://t.me/Statistics_Agency_akhborot, Facebook https://www.facebook.com/Statistics_Agency_akhborot, Instagram https://www.instagram.com/Statistics_Agency_akhborot, YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/>, and Newspaper <https://stat.uz/uz/matbuot-markazi/nashrlar-statistika-haqida>

⁹ <https://nsdp.stat.uz/>

¹⁰ <https://nsdg.stat.uz/en>

¹¹ <https://gender.stat.uz/en>

¹² <https://aholi.stat.uz/en/>

¹³ <https://stat.uz/en/informational-resources/registration-in-the-field-of-agriculture>

¹⁴ <https://data.egov.uz/>

¹⁵ <https://stat.uz/uz/me-yoriy-lawyyyy-hujjatlar/o-uzbekistan-respublikasining-vazilar-mahkamasi-q-rorl-ri>

¹⁶ <https://stat.uz/uz/matbuot-markazi/qo-mita-yangiliklar>

¹⁷ <https://stat.uz/uz/matbuot-markazi/e-lonlarr>

¹⁸ <https://stat.uz/ru/ofitsialnaya-statistika/kalendar-ofitsial-naya-statistika>

Assessment

The Global Assessment team acknowledged noteworthy initiatives in providing relevant statistical products to meet user needs and ensure relevance, accessibility, impartiality, and clarity.

Recommendations

48. The Statistics Agency should continue the current initiatives dedicated to ensuring relevance, clarity, and accessibility of statistical products for meeting user needs and increasing statistical literacy.
49. The Statistics Agency should consider streamlining the dissemination and communication activity inside the institution. This would allow the development of communication and dissemination capabilities, making it more efficient and avoiding duplication of work.
50. It is good to consider to develop more thematic web portal (such as gender.stat.uz) and make access more visible on main website.
51. Developing internal capabilities for planning, dissemination, and communication is especially important given the upcoming Population and Housing Census, which requires a well-prepared and consistent communication strategy and campaign.
52. The Statistics Agency should establish and communicate a standard publication time for official statistics. This is particularly relevant for sensitive indicators and statistics – a standard release time should avoid any unintended market impacts or considerations of external influences on statistical outputs.

Chapter 11: National Accounts and Government Finance Statistics

Overview

This chapter highlights the progress made by the National Statistical System of Uzbekistan, particularly in the areas of National Accounts and Government Finance Statistics. It acknowledges the significant strides made since the last Global Assessment in 2018, with many recommendations implemented or planned for implementation.

National accounts data play an important role in providing information for economic and monetary policymakers; their quality should be ensured beyond legal requirements. This means incorporating methodological improvements, improving data collection and production processes, and introducing new data sources.

Compiling national accounts, annual and quarterly, is under the responsibility of the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. During the period from 2018 to 2024, the Agency of Statistics gradually implemented the concepts of the 2008 SNA, in particular the concepts to ensure the consistency of national accounts with GFS and BOP, the measurement of research and development activities, housing services produced by homeowners for their own consumption (notional rent) using the user cost method, the non-observed economy, as well as improvements in the calculation of the market and non-market output of the Central Bank, financial intermediation services measured indirectly (FISIM) and insurance. Uzbekistan uses the International Classification of Economic Activities (NACE, Nomenclature of Economic Activities), COICOP (Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose) to account for household expenditures and COFOG (Classification of the Government Functions) to account for general government expenditures. The adoption of these classifications demonstrates Uzbekistan's commitment to bringing its statistical practices into line with international standards.

The Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan compiles the Balance of Payments and monetary and financial statistics, whereas the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MoEF) is responsible for Government Finance Statistics. The cooperation between the three institutes is good.

The Department of Macroeconomic Indicators and National Accounts consists of 5 divisions: the Division of Formation and Analysis of Macroeconomic Indicators, the Division of Current Accounts, the Division of Accumulation and Auxiliary Accounts, the Division of Coordination of Statistical Assessment of the Shadow Economy, and the Division of Input and Output Statistics. In total, the department employs 19 employees, distributed among these divisions.

The Statistics Agency utilizes a variety of sources to compile national accounts statistics. These include households' surveillance surveys, monthly surveys of large commercial enterprises, quarterly and annual surveys of small commercial enterprises and micro firms, administrative data from MoEF, tax authorities, customs authorities, and the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This diverse range of sources allows for a comprehensive view of economic activities across different sectors and enterprise sizes.

Statistics Agency produces and publishes an extensive set of macroeconomic indicators annually and quarterly at the current price and at the previous year's price. Statistics Agency employs all three methods for determining GDP: expenditure, production, and income approach. This comprehensive approach to GDP measurement is indeed a best practice in national accounting, as it helps ensure better quality and accuracy of the GDP estimates.

Key indicators include value added by industry and by region, final consumption of households and government, exports and imports of goods and services, share of compensation of employees in GDP, non-observed economy and tourism satellite accounts. The statistics agency uses a tool called SIAT to publish these indicators. This platform appears to be user-friendly and convenient for accessing the data. The full sequence of accounts is missing, which could limit the ability to perform more detailed economic analysis or comparisons with other countries using the complete System of National Accounts framework.

Globalization has increased the importance of multinational corporations in the domestic economy. They play a dominant role in global production, which is then reflected statistically in their contribution to the domestic economy, to external trade, and to the international transfer of technology. On the other hand, the world becomes financially increasingly interconnected, and it is always more complex to catch the economic reality. By statistically tracking multinational corporations, the unit aims to better align the national accounts and the balance of payments, as well as to improve the quality of the statistical output.

The SNA 2025 revision aims to better capture the economic reality shaped by globalization and the increasing importance of MNEs: enhanced measurement of global production. The revision of the SNA and the manual of the Balance of Payment will improve the alignment of the two frameworks.

Therefore, it is important to follow the development of the new SNA, which the United Nations Statistical Commission will adopt in 2025.

In conclusion, the SNA 2025 represents a significant effort to update the international statistical standard to better reflect the realities of a globalized, digitalized economy. It aims to provide more accurate and comprehensive tools for economic analysis and policy-making in the face of complex international economic relationships, particularly those involving MNE. The exchange of granular company data between Uzstat and the Central Bank is crucial for large company and can provide numerous benefits: including better quality and reducing reporting burdens on companies.

Government financial statistics

The Ministry of Economy and Finance is responsible for producing and publishing Government financial statistics. A small team of three people is dedicated to this task. The main data sources are local and central fiscal information.

In 2012, Uzbekistan adopted the 2001 Government Financial Statistics Manual (GFSM) and has more recently implemented the 2014 GFSM. The adoption of the GFSM has improved the international comparability of Uzbekistan's government financial data.

Plans are underway to expand the coverage of the general government sector by including public enterprises at both central and local levels. This will provide a more comprehensive picture of the public sector. The adoption of international standards, including IPSAS, demonstrates Uzbekistan's commitment to aligning with international best practices.

The MoEF's main objectives are to satisfy the DMS requirements and develop a roadmap to comply with them.

Recommendations

53. Deepen cooperation with the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, as national accounts rely heavily on administrative data from these sources.
54. Ensure that data from the Ministry of Economy and Finance is adapted according to SNA methodology.
55. Work closely with the Central Bank to obtain detailed information.
56. Consider adopting the Harmonised European Revision Policy (HERP), a common policy between central banks and national statistical institutes.
57. Set up a working group to identify changes in the upcoming SNA 2025 and prepare for its implementation, which may require new surveys or adaptations to existing surveys.

Chapter 12: Balance of Payments Statistics

Overview

Since 2018, the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been responsible for compiling and disseminating balance of payments, international investment position and external debt statistics (BOP/IIP/ED thereafter) based on Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No.263 on "On Measures to Ensure the Compilation of External Sector Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated April 3, 2018.

BOP/IIP/ED compilation and dissemination has been assigned to the Department of FX Regulation and Balance of Payments at the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This department currently has 22 employees, out of which a team of 7 people is dedicated to producing BOP/IIP/ED statistics on a quarterly basis. Their responsibility includes the external debt, the international investment position, and the management of reserve assets.

The Central Bank has benefited from several IMF technical assistance missions to improve the collection, processing and dissemination of BOP/IIP/ED data.

The Central Bank adopted the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (IMF, 6th edition, 2009) and External Debt Statistics (IMF, 2014), the guides for compilers and users, as well as the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS 2010). Adopting international standards demonstrates Uzbekistan's commitment to aligning with international best practices.

The Central Bank is also responsible for compiling foreign direct investments (including, intercompany lending) and portfolio investments data based on the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (IMF, 6th edition, 2009).

BOP/IIP/ED statistics are compiled, disseminated quarterly and yearly, and transmitted to international organizations. They comply with the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) regulation.

To compile the data, the Central Bank relies on a very wide range of sources, including surveys of non-financial corporations conducted by the Statistics Agency, administrative data from commercial banks and non-bank financial organizations, and information from government bodies and public enterprises.

Assessment

Balance of Payments and International Investment statistics are compliant with international regulations. Since the National accounts statistics are almost in line with the SNA 2008 methodology, exchanging data on individual enterprises between the agencies responsible for national accounts and balance of payments statistics would significantly enhance the quality of both sets of statistics. Moreover, the upcoming revisions to SNA 2008 and BPM6, to be known as SNA 2025 and BPM7, will further reinforce the alignment between these two statistical frameworks.

Recommendations

58. CBU and the Statistics Agency are encouraged to expand mutual cooperation in regard to the exchange of granular data and individual company data, ensuring common confidentiality rules.

59. The CBU should consider adopting the Harmonised European Revision Policy (HERP).
60. The revision of the two manuals concerning macroeconomic data, BPM6 and SNA 2008, aims to capture better the economic reality shaped by globalization and the increasing importance of MNEs. Therefore, it is important to identify the changes in the upcoming BPM7 by setting up a working group with the Statistics Agency and preparing for its implementation, which may require new surveys or adaptations to existing surveys.

Chapter 13: Price statistics

Price statistics are compiled within the Price Statistics Department. The Department has four divisions. In total, the department has 13 permanent staff. The department is producing several statistics within the consumer price area, housing, and producer price area. The price statistics are compiled in line with international recommendations. The department is also involved in the International Comparison Program.

Overview

The consumer price index (CPI) is based on more than 120,000 monthly price observations covering 67 districts and cities in 14 regions. Consumer prices are collected through field collections, but also new electronic data sources from tax authorities (cash registers data) and supermarkets (transactions data), as well as administrative sources, are received and analysed with the aim of implementation in the CPI. Within field collection, tablet devices (CAPI technology) have been introduced. The Statistics Agency has, as one of the first countries in the world, introduced the consumption classification, COICOP 2018, in the CPI. In recent years, efforts have been made to increase the goods and services within housing, e.g., rents, maintenance, and repair. Also, methods for handling seasonal items have been introduced.

The producer price index (PPI) covers four main sections within the statistical classification of economic activities, NACE Rev.2. Producer prices are collected monthly by electronic questionnaire through the ESTAT system. More than 2000 enterprises form the sample of PPI covering both large enterprises and small business entities. Producer price indices for services (SPPI) are compiled for transport and communication services. Also, calculations of price indices for market services are being conducted.

The export and import price index cover goods with a significant share in the volume of exports and imports. The index is based on a new harmonized system of describing and coding goods from the Foreign economic activity commodity nomenclature of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The sample of enterprises is selected from a list of legal entities that have a significant volume in the supply of goods, export products to the foreign market or import them into the territory of the country.

The construction price index includes enterprises belonging to the section "Construction" in the statistical classification of economic activities, NACE Rev.2. The data is collected by monthly questionnaires (prices) and 4 labour forms quarterly reported. The index covers almost 700 enterprises, both large and small business entities.

The house price index is based on several data sources like questionnaires, administrative resources, information from real estate agencies, the internet, and transaction prices obtained from the OLX.UZ site platform. Introducing the platform as a data source has increased the average monthly house prices from 650 to more than 50,000.

Uzbekistan participated in the 2021 International Comparison Program (ICP). A department of price monitoring statistics with qualified personnel was established. Price monitoring was conducted in 84 selected trade and service facilities in Tashkent. Administrative data from different ministries were used for the "Construction Materials" and "Investment Goods" groups.

Future development

The Statistics Agency is actively improving and optimizing the system of data collecting by using new data sources and introducing information technologies into the processes of data collection, processing, and analysis. This includes further improvement of the questionnaires

to reduce the burden on respondents, and technologies of processing big data and their use in statistical calculations. Harmonization of methodological approaches for housing prices and producer price index of services is also planned.

Recommendations

61. Continue to introduce big data sources like transaction data.
62. Continue to utilise new technologies in the data-collecting process.
63. Consider introducing a measurement of imputed rent for OOH.
64. Consider the share of owner-occupied housing (OOH) in Uzbekistan and in collaboration with the National Account, and if significant, consider the need for developing imputed rentals for OOH in the CPI.

Chapter 14: Business Statistics

Overview

The presentation during the Global assessment covered Environment and entrepreneurship statistics (Business statistics), Transport Statistics, and Energy statistics.

All statistics are produced according to international standards. However, practice within business statistics differs from the practice of European countries. Transforming statistical processes in this area, taking into account best practices, will require technical assistance from international organizations. As part of implementing the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan 2020 – 2025 (roadmap), several methodological improvements are either incorporated or works in progress.

Business register

In order to systematically organize the accounting of economic units operating in the republic, the Unified State Register of Enterprises and Organizations (USREO) has been developed by the Statistics Agency. A database of enterprises and organizations has been established based on the administrative information provided by the registering bodies.

The basis for the USREO is found in legal documents related to maintaining a single state register of enterprises and regulating state registration and accounting of business entities. The business register is updated constantly.

USREO is constantly maintained based on the information received from the registration authorities in accordance with the "Regulation on the Unified State Register of Enterprises and Organizations".

To maintain accurate and high-quality statistics of small business entities during the pandemic, the Director of the Agency adopted order No. 24 in April 2020. According to this order, small business entities that makeup 70-80% of the network index of each district and city are selected. and the mechanism of conducting a monthly telephone survey on their activities was established. In addition, to form a comprehensive quarterly statistical account of these small business entities, targeted sampling surveys of large-scale small business entities operating in the areas of trade, industry, construction, agriculture, and service provision have been implemented. Automatically notification of changes in the main economic activity type and type of enterprise of business entities based on the data of annual statistical reports is developed.

Technical requirements to create an improved new look of the information system that fully meets a business register's requirements is a work in progress. Expanding the number and improving the quality of indicators in the USREO will be carried out by the integration with databases of the Ministry of Justice, the Tax Committee, and the Cadastral agency.

Business Statistics (Entrepreneurship statistics)

According to the law on Guarantees of Entrepreneurial Activities, business entities in Uzbekistan are divided into categories. According to this law, the small businesses in Entrepreneurship statistics include individual entrepreneurs, micro-enterprises, and small enterprises. The size of an enterprise is defined by the number of employees within an economic activity defined in a national "Classification of Small Business Entities". The economic activity is based on the ISIC (International System of Classification of all

Economic Activities) classification. Statistics have a wide range of use internally in the Statistic Agency as input in several macroeconomic statistics and social and economic statistics, as well as maintaining the business register.

For small enterprises and micro-enterprises, data is collected quarterly through questionnaires, while for some individual entrepreneurs, it is also conducted monthly.

Integration into the licensing information system of the Ministry of Justice in order to use information about licensing, authorization, and notification when forming a list of respondents and integration into the electronic database of invoices of the Tax committee to obtain information on all completed transactions (in the context of enterprises and products/services) is planned. The Statistics Agency will organize an international seminar on improving the statistics of enterprises and organizations and sharing experiences in cooperation with foreign countries. The Business Census will be conducted by using the "Digital Database of Statistical Registers", involving a wide range of international experts and representatives of ministries and agencies.

Transport Statistics

Transport statistics cover several transport activities: railway, road, electric transport (tram, metro, trolleybus), pipeline, and air transport. Also, infrastructures, transport of goods and passengers are covered. The basis for conducting statistical surveys of enterprises within the transport statistics is USREO. The data is collected quarterly by questionnaires and annually as administered data. Two questionnaires have been shortened because of data merging with relevant databases.

As part of the Roadmap, improvements in statistical indicators and the development of a standard classification of goods for Transport Statistics have been conducted in recent years.

Energy statistics

Energy statistics cover the production, processing, transmission, and consumption of energy as well as the share of energy costs in the costs of products. Data is collected annually by statistical reports, sample surveys, and administrative data. The Statistics Agency annually submits a questionnaire to the International Energy Agency on the fuel and energy balance of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Cooperation with the International Energy Agency continued joint efforts to improve the fuel and energy balance, and participation in international seminars, training, and conferences on energy statistics to continuously improve the statistics are planned.

Recommendations

65. Continue the interdepartmental integration of the USREO with the central database of the tax Committee for accounting of representative offices, branches, and individual entrepreneurs, as well as integration with other Ministries.
66. Extend the Business register with more variables, e.g. active or non-active.
67. Continue to achieve full adaptation of the USREO management methodology to the latest international recommendations.
68. Continue to improve the transport statistics indicators to ensure international comparability.

69. Continue to improve the data collection processes by integrating with relevant databases.
70. Continue improving the fuel and energy balance with the assistance of the International Energy Agency.
71. Continue developing statistics about the use of solar panels.

Chapter 15: Population Census and Population Statistics

Overview

The last Census was conducted in 1989. A Census was planned to be conducted in 2022. The pilot census was conducted in November 2021; however, due to COVID-19 and other subsequent reasons, it was postponed. Additionally, the information system “Population Census” has been developed and the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 12, 2020 No. 710 “On measures to prepare and conduct the population census in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2023” was adopted. The Census is now scheduled for 2026. It will now be moved from PAPI to CAPI and CAWI.

The Census follows Recommendations from the Conference of European Statisticians for the 2020 Population and Housing Censuses, the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 10 June 2015 [on the recommendation of the Statistical Commission (E/2015/24)] 2015/10. 2020 World Population and Housing Census Program, and the Secretary-General's 2010 and 2020 Population and Housing Census Programs Report.

The Mahalla institution of Uzbekistan is unique and can be important for ensuring high response rates in surveys and the Census. It should also be used to ensure the accuracy and high quality of the population register (and other administrative records). Training of Mahalla chairmen and committees about the importance of accurate administrative data can be beneficial in this. Regional and district offices could have a coordinating role (as with civil registration).

Population Statistics and Population projections

The Census will also be the basis for updating the population statistics and population projections. Given the long time since the last census, the 2026 Census, making inter-census estimates will be a challenge. Assistance from experts, for example, from the United Nations Population Division, might be advisable.

International recommendations and classifications are followed in producing various population statistics. The latest versions of these must be implemented. The Statistics Agency has started modernizing the production of population statistics, and the databases of the Ministry of Justice (vital statistics) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (migration and citizenship) have been integrated with it. This has also led to an increase in the production of statistical indicators. The next step planned by the Statistics Agency is the creation of a population register.

Migration, especially emigration, is often underreported; the Statistics Agency should look for alternative sources to check the completeness and correct where necessary. Involving the Mahalla administration might be an option to improve the correction of under-reported emigration. This and other checks and balances are essential in maintaining an accurate population register.

Recommendations

72. The Statistics Agency, with sufficient budget provided by the government, should hold a Population and Housing Census in 2025 or, at the latest, 2026.
73. To improve the building, dwelling, and household frame by integrating cadastre, satellite imagery, and aerial photography, as well as for guiding enumerators and supervisors during the enumeration process.

74. The Statistics Agency should adapt the census questionnaire and procedures based on the pilot census and do additional tests with CAPI and CAWI methods.
75. The Statistics Agency should continue the census media campaign as it is important for a successful census.
76. The Statistics Agency should continue with its plan to set up a population register with sufficient quality checks and correction methods.
77. The Mahalla system should be used to ensure the accuracy and high quality of the planned population register (and other administrative records). Regional and district offices could have a coordinating role (as with civil registration).
78. The Statistics Agency should obtain the right to propose modifications to administrative registers in order to facilitate their use for statistical production.

Chapter 16: Labour Market Statistics

Overview

The Ministry of Employment and Poverty is the responsible statistical producer of labour market statistics. They focussed their presentation on a database that holds all formal labour contracts in the country, thus it is an administrative source. Thanks to integration with sources available in various Ministries and agencies, an impressive set of variables is available in the database: structure of enterprise; salary paid; taxes paid; passport data; work history for employees; vacancies by employer; profession; education; disability; and several others.

Micro-companies are included in the database, but state civil servants are not.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) has been carried out by the Institute of Labour Market Research under the Ministry of Employment and Poverty.

LFS was implemented on a quarterly basis from 2018 - 2023, but in 2024 no fieldwork for LFS has been conducted so far. The Institute had asked the Ministry to conduct two LFS rounds simultaneously in July 2024 to compensate for the two missing quarters (with double input of interviewers). One conclusion is that the Ministry is not supporting the LFS but instead promoting its database with formal labour contracts. This database contains less than 6 million persons (some of whom have more than one work contract at the same time), while in the results from LFS in 2023, there are 14 million employed persons, 1 million unemployed, and a further 4.7 million economically inactive persons. (the total population of the country is 37 million).

The sample for LFS was 20 000 households, equal to 0.3% of all households. A two-stage approach was used for sampling: 1) selection of mahalla in each city and district; 2) selection of 10 households in each mahalla from a list of households in the selected mahalla (every 20th household on that list). The number of interviewers was 70, with a reserve of 100 interviewers. Interviews were conducted on paper (PAPI), with the interviewers going from door to door. The refusal rate was at most 20%. In case of refusals, additional samples were selected from the household list of that mahalla by selecting the next 20th household.

Results of LFS were published on the website of the Ministry of Employment and Poverty and disaggregated by region and district.

The Statistics Agency produces annual labour cost statistics and salaries statistics.

The classification on employment status in use is ICLS-93 in a national version.

A number of improvements in future labour market statistics were listed:

- Re-conduct the Labour cost survey
- Apply the ILO definition of unemployment
- Conduct a job vacancy survey
- Introduce the variable hours worked in the labour force survey

Assessment

The two-fold approach to labour market statistics seems to be a bit confusing. There seems to be competition between actors for what to focus on. The LFS suffers from this ambiguity, and it would be better to transfer the responsibility for LFS to the Statistics Agency.

Recommendations

79. Move the collection method of the Labour Force Survey to CAPI/CAWI and continue to develop LFS and align to ILO standards with help from international experts and consider rationalizing the production by moving it to the Statistics Agency, which has substantial experience in conducting sample surveys in households.

Chapter 17: Other household statistics

Overview

A complete and accurate sampling frame is the basis for good household statistics. Despite not having conducted a Census since 1989, the sample frame is probably of high quality. *'At the first stage, the number of primary sampling units (PEO) for each region is determined separately for the city and village. Mahallas are used as primary units of selection in urban strata, and rural mahallas and villages are used in rural strata. At the second stage, after the selection of the PEO, before field work is carried out for all selected mahallas and villages, a list of all households living in them is compiled, from which a simple random selection is carried out by regions based on urban and rural strata'.*

The Statistics Agency is following international recommended methodologies and uses relevant international classifications and regularly reviews them. World Bank experts have helped to improve the method of organizing sample surveys of households and survey questionnaires were adapted to international standards. Methodological regulation on conducting household surveys" and "Guide for interviewers on conducting sample surveys of households" were developed and put into practice.

Recently, surveys were moved from PAPI to CAPI mode and there are plans to conduct them through CATI and CAWI. Due to the more advanced inconsistency checking and the ability to provide specific feedback and faster control by supervisors, it should lead to an increased quality. Additionally, it has shown to reduce the response burden, again leading to less (item)non-response.

A significant part of information on household composition, education attendance, level of education, mobility and migration, usage of health services, and housing conditions, is obtained from Government Departments responsible for these services. Additional information is obtained through the household budget questionnaires of which the Household Budget Survey is the main one. Another source for example for SDG reporting, is obtained through Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted in collaboration with UNICEF.

Household Budget Survey (including standard of living conditions and poverty measurements)

As reducing poverty is a priority for the government of Uzbekistan, and in line with international recommendations, the Statistics Agency is expanding poverty indicators. The Methodological Regulation on the Multidimensional Poverty Index was approved and in total 48 questions were added to existing household surveys. Integrating the multidimensional poverty measurement methodology into the household budget survey questionnaires starting from 2024 was based on the methodology and recommendations of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UNICEF, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Oxford Centre for Combating Poverty (OPHI) and on this basis, it is planned to start assessing multidimensional poverty together with the level of monetary poverty in Uzbekistan.

In order to ensure the quality of data on the standard of living of the population and the coverage of different categories of the population, the size of the sample of household surveys was gradually increased to 16,000 households.

Survey on Domestic Tourism and Population Physical Activity Monitoring

Tourism statistics are in line with international recommendations on tourism statistics (UNWTO 2008). Data are collected through household surveys. Information on domestic

tourism research and physical activity monitoring comes from household survey questionnaires.

Recommendations

80. The Statistics Agency is encouraged to continue using more administrative data to replace or complement data collected through survey questionnaires.
81. Information obtained from administrative sources need to be probed for coverage and completeness, for example by comparing it with the outcome from MICSs and the Census.
82. Include indicators or the data to calculate them that are now only collected through MICS and that are relevant for National Development programmes either from forms from administrative sources or if not possible, include them in existing household surveys.

Chapter 18: Statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals

Legal framework – national coordination mechanisms

Following its adoption by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the Global Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030. To facilitate the implementation of the SDGs, the country enacted several national resolutions at the highest political level, establishing a sound framework for ensuring progress towards these objectives.

- 2018 – Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 841 aimed to ensure macroeconomic stability and further implementation of national SDGs
- 2022 – Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers “On additional measures to accelerate the implementation of National goals and objectives in the field of sustainable development for the period until 2030¹⁹” (No. 83 of 02.21.2022).

By the latter, the country adopted **16** national goals and **126** objectives in sustainable development. SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development) was considered not relevant for the country. This Resolution is also considered the national Roadmap for organizing the implementation of the nationally adopted goals.

To ensure intersectoral coordination it was adopted an integrated approach:

- In 2020, a Parliamentary Commission was created to monitor the implementation of National Goals and Objectives.
- Six thematic expert working groups were created, each responsible for the implementation of the relevant SDG targets: Economic well-being (54 indicators), Environment (43 indicators), Good governance (39 indicators), Health (36 indicators), Education (10 indicators) and Social Protection (13 indicators).

In addition, the Interdepartmental Working Group for developing and monitoring National SDG Indicators was created, led by the Director of the Statistics Agency.

Global and National Indicators Framework

Following the UN recommendations, during 2015-2019, under the government's leadership, the Interdepartmental Working Group adapted the global indicators framework (GIF) to national priorities.

In 2019, the first list with 206 nationally relevant SDG indicators was developed and recognized as relevant for the country. It was approved by the head of the Coordination Council and continuously improved in the subsequent years to harmonize it with the GIF²⁰<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>. Currently, the list includes 190 indicators, of which 155 indicators correspond to global indicators, 24 were replaced by “proxy” indicators, and 11 were included as national indicators.

Currently, information is available on 139 SDG indicators (73.2%), which exceeds the targeted 65% by 2025, by the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.

¹⁹ <https://lex.uz/docs/5873508>

²⁰ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

PP-4796, “On the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2020-2025”²¹.

Statistics Agency provides more than 60% of the SDG indicators information; the rest is compiled based on register and administrative data from other ministries and departments.

National Reporting Platform (NRP)

In 2019, with the technical support of the UNDP, the National website²² was developed, allowing the monitoring of the progress of SDGs, informing the national and international users about the current situation in the country, and taking into account the best international practices. The site has a convenient interface that allows downloading new indicators with any level of detail and methodological information and provides support in Uzbek, Russian, and English.

Statistics Agency, in collaboration and consultation with other responsible ministries and departments, developed the calculation methodology for 139 indicators, identified the data sources, and calculated indicators that were published on the national SDG platform.

Since 2019, the Statistics Agency has published the annual statistical compilations “Sustainable Development Goals in the Republic of Uzbekistan” in Uzbek, Russian, and English and makes them available on the website of the National SDGs²³.

Voluntary National Review (VNR)

According to Agenda 2030 recommendations, Uzbekistan presented its first VNR in 2020 at the High-Level Political Forum²⁴ based on official statistical data from national sources, and in July 2023, presented the second Voluntary National Review²⁵. The Statistics Agency provided information and statistics to support the VNR findings and conclusions.

Capacity development and international collaboration activities

In collaboration with international (custodian) organizations and UN agencies, the Statistics Agency organized thematic seminars and working meetings inviting ministries and departments involved in the production and monitoring of SDG indicators:

- joint workshop in partnership with UNEP, UNESCAP, UN University, FAO, and UNECE on SDG indicators in the field of environment and economic well-being;
- joint seminar with UNDP, UNEP, UN-Habitat, and UNECE on the development of a methodology for indicators of SDG 6 “Conservation and rational use of water resources for sustainable development, ensuring their availability and developing sanitation for all”;
- joint seminar with the Representative Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as part of the technical assistance

²¹ <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4926743>

²² <https://nsdg.stat.uz>

²³ <https://nsdg.stat.uz/publications>

²⁴ <https://hlpf.un.org/countries/uzbekistan/voluntary-national-review-2020>

²⁵ <https://hlpf.un.org/countries/uzbekistan/voluntary-national-reviews-2023>

- project on “Strengthening national capacity in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs”;
- joint working meeting together with the Academy of the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan as well as specialized UN agencies, to discuss and review the calculation methodology of SDG indicators on “Effective Governance”;
- a joint seminar with the National Centre for Human Rights and in cooperation with the Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for Central Asia and the Danish Institute for Human Rights aiming to strengthen statistical capacity in the area of human rights-based approach to data for SDGs.

The Statistics Agency took part in a **survey on best practices in achievements** in sustainable development conducted by the IAEG-SDGs and the Statistics Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs on the best practices of Uzbekistan. The results were published on the website of the Statistics Division, “Best Practices” on achieving the SDGs”.

The Statistics Agency also took part in the **regional project “Creating a Regional Platform for knowledge exchange on SDGs in Central Asia.”**²⁶ implemented by UNDP. The project produced a subregional framework of indicators (“dashboard”) on SDGs.

In addition, with the assistance of the UN Country Team, the Statistics Agency introduced a **new ESCAP tool – the SDG Tracker**, designed to assess progress in achieving the SDGs and report on progress. As a result, a page of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been opened on the SDG Tracker platform, currently working in test mode²⁷.

As part of a **Twining program**, in 2023, the Statistics Agency hosted the delegations from Tajikistan and Mongolia. The event was organized at the initiative of ESCAP, the UN Country Office in Uzbekistan, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance²⁸ and aimed to share best practices and lessons learned in preparing the Voluntary National Review.

International statistical questionnaires

The Statistics Agency annually takes part in filling out international questionnaires such as the UNESCO questionnaire on formal education (indicators 4.1.2, 4.2.2, 4.3.1, 4.a.1, 4.c.1), science and innovation (indicators 9.5 .1, 9.5.2)²⁹, SESRIC questionnaire on SDGs, and CIS-STAT questionnaires on SDG indicators³⁰.

In the near future, the Statistics Agency plans to refine the calculation methodology according to metadata provided by the UN and other custodian organizations for the indicators 1.1.1, 1.2.2, 2.1.2, 4.3.1, and 17.9.1 and develop a methodology for calculating the indicators of Result-Based Management, which are currently unavailable in the country.

²⁶ <https://embed.kumu.io/6a36850a3dba3fa0d5236d4a813feecb#cur-v-ca/puti-uzb/uzb-put-1>

²⁷ https://sdg_tracker.unescap.org/login?ReturnUrl=%2Fadministration%2Feditprofile

²⁸ <https://nsdg.stat.uz/news/46>

²⁹ <https://uis.unesco.org/uis-questionnaires>

³⁰ <https://new.cisstat.org/sdg>

The Multi-indicator Cluster Survey (MICS-7) is considered an important data source for many SDG indicators, and it is planned to be organized with UNICEF's support.

The Statistics Agency has a dedicated team working on SDGs and related activities.

Assessment

The Global Assessment team was impressed by the progress achieved since the last Global Assessment (2018) and the work and results for implementing and monitoring the SDGs.

Recommendations

83. The Statistics Agency should continue current initiatives in coordinating the efforts at the national level to provide data and statistics for SDGs.
84. The Statistics Agency should stay aware of institutional resources (financial, human, technical, etc.) when engaging in various projects.
85. It is recommended that the Statistics Agency consider sharing and promoting the lessons learned, progress, and challenges with the wider SDGs community – there are many achievements and great results!