

Description of the National Statistical System

Statistical Office of Luxembourg



I. GENERAL INFORMATION:

“STATEC’s slogan “Knowledge in action” describes exactly our ultimate goal. Statistics are not an end in themselves. They serve two functions:

Firstly, they must faithfully mirror the country’s economic and social situation.

Secondly, they must enable public and private decision-makers to take informed decisions.

"Better information means more democracy" is the catchphrase of one of Luxembourg's largest producers and disseminators of information.

At a time when our society is inundated with information by traditional media and the information superhighway, stakeholders, decision-makers and citizens all need reliable, objective and easily accessible information. They want information from credible sources. STATEC’s ultimate objective is to provide such an information service. Providing objective and quality information is the best way to support decision-making processes in a modern society.

The acronym "STATEC" stands for Central Service for Statistics and Economic Studies, formed in 1962 from the merger between the General Statistics Office and the Service for Economic Studies and Documentation.

- **Mission of the NSI**

Setting up a statistical information system on the country’s structure and activities by:

- statistically monitoring demographic, economic and social trends (censuses, surveys and use of administrative files);
- centralising statistical information available to public and private bodies according to their functions;
- coordinating statistical methods, definitions and nomenclatures.

Establishing economic and social, global and sectoral accounts and balance sheets, national accounts and balance of payments;

Studying economic trends and structural changes in the economy;

Working out short- and long-term economic, global and sectoral forecasts;

Conducting studies and analyses of demographic, economic and social trends and publishing the results;

Distributing statistical data and the results of its studies.

- **Status of the NSI in public administration system of the country**

STATEC stands under the authority of the Ministry for the Economy and Foreign Trade. STATEC is financially and scientifically independent, i.e. it sets its own work programme in accordance with national and European statistical legislation and produces and disseminates data in complete neutrality.

- **Procedure of appointment of Director-General of the NSI**

The appointment and dismissal procedures for the Director General of the NSI are the same as for the rest of the high officials of the administration. On the basis of a proposal of the Ministry of Economy, the government decides on the appointment or the dismissal of the head of the NSI. Required qualifications and procedures of the appointment are determined by an article (Art. 2) of the law creating the NSI and by the general legislative framework for the appointment of civil servants.

The term of the present head of the statistical authority is not fixed – civil servants in Luxembourg are nominated and therefore appointed on a life-long basis. However, the new legislation has changed the appointment/dismissal policy of high officials. Therefore, the next head of STATEC will be appointed on a seven-year renewable contract.

- **Location of seat of the NSI, regional offices**

Statec is located at:

Centre Administratif Pierre Werner

13, rue Erasme

L-1468 Luxembourg-Kirchberg

Situation map: <http://www.statec.public.lu/en/functions/contact/acces/index.html>

- **Organisational structure of the NSI;**

Managerial bodies

The Management Committee (composed of the General Director and the four Heads of Division) deals with high level decisions as well as budgetary and personnel issues. It ensures that urgent matters are attended to.

The Heads of Unit (18 persons) meet monthly with the Management Committee in order to manage joint projects, to exchange information, to follow up day-to-day issues and the implementation and monitoring of the annual programme.

Staff structure

STATEC has a staff of 152 persons of which 52% are civil servants, and 48% employees, researchers and part-time workers. 46% of the jobs are occupied by women. The average age of STATEC's staff is 39 year.

The organisational chart of Statec is displayed on the Internet Website: <http://www.statec.public.lu/en/statec/organisation/organigram/index.html>.

- **Main legal act(s)**

STATEC was set up under the law of 9 July 1962. The provisions of this law, as amended by the laws of 22 April 1967 and 14 July 1971, set out the missions of STATEC, its internal

organisation, its terms of reference and the careers of its employees and civil servants. Article 7 stipulates two special provisions, namely the legal obligation to answer queries and statistical confidentiality.

II. SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN THE COUNTRY

- **The role of the NSI in the system, other major players**

The Luxembourg statistical system is centralised. According to Article 7 of the law on statistics,

"The central service for statistics and economic studies will centralise all statistical information. No statistical survey of a general interest may be performed by other public or private organisations without the prior approval of this office."

However, requirements for statistical data compared to the resources available mean that STATEC resorts mainly to collaborating with other data producers and public and private research centres.

Apart from its own surveys, STATEC centralises all data available from the Luxembourg government, both in order to carry out its studies and to make these accessible to users on a single platform.

Some surveys and studies are carried out in close collaboration with the University of Luxembourg and Luxembourg research centres, in particular the Henri Tudor Public Research Centre and CEPS/INSTEAD, and abroad.

III. ADVISORY BODY/STATISTICAL COUNCIL (or its equivalent)

- **Composition, main tasks**

The Higher Statistical Council has a consultative function. It expresses an opinion on STATEC's annual programme. At the end of each year, STATEC submits a report on work accomplished during the year and a work programme for the year to come to the council for appraisal.

The higher council has 9 members representing public-sector suppliers of statistical data, members representing private-sector suppliers of statistical data, 3 members representing labour and 4 members appointed for their expertise in economic and social statistics and studies.

IV. PUBLICATIONS

The catalogue of publications, which is distributed free of charge, classifies publications according to function:

- Historical statistics
- Statistical yearbook
- Luxembourg in figures (in 3 languages)
- Statistics by municipality
- Economic reports (Note de conjuncture)
- Conjoncture flash
- Directory of companies

- Short term indicators
- Statec's Bulletin
- Economics and Statistics
- Cahiers économiques
- Demographic statistics
- Cross-border statistics

All these publications can be downloaded free of charge in PDF format from the website:
www.statistiques.lu

V. OTHER RELEVANT REMARKS (e.g. major policies)

For more information:

Website of the NSI: <http://www.statec.public.lu>

Website of the national statistical gateway: <http://www.statistiques.lu>