



## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

**Mission of the HCSO:** Our mission is to provide reliable statistical data on the state of and changes in the Hungarian society, economy, ownership relations and environment in order to meet the information needs of the broad community of our customers including public agencies, economic organisations, the EU and other international organisations, researchers, the mass media and the general public. The process of producing statistical data must be transparent and cost-effective.

**Status of the HCSO:** The Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) is a professionally independent governmental office, which has its own chapter in the state budget.

**Procedure of appointment of Director-General:** The President and the Deputy Presidents of the HCSO shall be appointed and relieved by the Prime Minister. The period of the respective appointments shall be 6 years which may be extended twice, by a further 6 years, each time. The President of the HCSO shall be entitled to the emolument and allowances due to the State Secretary for Public Administration while the Deputy Presidents of the HCSO shall be entitled to the emolument and allowances due to the Deputy State Secretary.

**Location of seat of the HCSO and its directorates:** The central office of the HCSO is located in Budapest. The HCSO has six directorates, each having two representative offices. There are around 1050 staff members in the central office and 450 in the regional directorates.

**Organisational structure:**

[http://portal.ksh.hu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/KSHPORTALENG/INTRODUCTION/ORGANIZATIONAL/ORGANIZATIONAL%20SCHEME\\_070709.PDF](http://portal.ksh.hu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/KSHPORTALENG/INTRODUCTION/ORGANIZATIONAL/ORGANIZATIONAL%20SCHEME_070709.PDF)

**Main legal act:** [Act on Statistics No. XLVI of 1993.](#)

Other legislation related to statistical activity: Act LXIII of 1992 on the Protection of Personal Data and Public Access to Data of Public Interest.

**Statistical programme:**

**Statistical data collections:** Statistical data collections may be performed by prescribing an obligation to supply data, or on the basis of voluntary data supply.

**Compulsory data collections:** The data collection programme of the official statistical service involving obligation to supply data is the National Statistical Data Collection Programme (NSDCP).

The data collection programme is drawn up by the HCSO based on the proposal<sup>1</sup> of institutions belonging to the official statistical service. The NSC expresses an opinion on the draft programme, and the supervising Minister of the HCSO submits that to the Government. The data supply obligation related to data collections is laid down in a Government Decree.

Obligatory supply of information with regard to personal data by any natural person can only be ordered by law. Data collections ordered by law include the collection of vital statistical data, population censuses, and the collection of certain agricultural data, for example.

A local government by-law may order or carry out statistical data collections in the area belonging to the competence of the local government and in accordance with the rules laid down in Act XLVI of 1993.

**Data collections based on voluntary data supply:** An organ or institution not belonging to the official statistical service may collect statistical data on the basis of voluntary data supply. Collections of data based on voluntary data supply may be performed without permission. The attention of data suppliers has to be called to the voluntary character of the response.

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<sup>1</sup> The proposal covers the institution's own planned data collections, and if this institution is competent by the object of the data collection, the proposal of a public institution or a public administration organ with nation-wide authority, not belonging to the official statistical service, for a collection of data for statistical purposes involving obligatory data supply.

## II. SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN HUNGARY

### The official statistical service

In Hungary, performing official statistical activity is the task of the official statistical service. The organs belonging to the official statistical service: the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, the ministries, the Prime Minister's Office, the Office of the National Council of the Judiciary, the Office of the Chief Public Prosecutor, the National Bank of Hungary, the Office for Economic Competition, Research and Technological Innovation Council and the Hungarian Financial Supervisory Authority.

The heads of institutions belonging to the statistical service have to ensure the independence of the statistical activity, and the objectivity of the statistical information provided.

The tasks of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office within the service:

- develops statistical methods, concepts and classifications agreed on by other institutions of the service,
- draws up the annual draft of the national statistical data collection programme,
- follows up the carrying out of the programme.

### The national statistical office

The Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) is a professionally independent governmental office, which has its own chapter in the state budget. The President and the Vice Presidents of the HCSO are appointed and relieved by the Prime Minister. The period of the respective appointments is 6 years which may be extended twice, by a further 6 years, each time. The HCSO consists of central organisational units and six regional directorates.

Its main tasks are the following:

- The planning of data surveys, the surveying, processing, storage, analysis, and publication of data, and the protection of individual data.
- The office supplies statistical data to the organs of the Parliament and the public administration, social organisations, interest representing organs, local governments, public bodies, the scientific community, enterprises, the population and the media as well as to international organisations, and users abroad.
- Official data on the country's social and economic situation and population are published by the HCSO.

## III. NATIONAL STATISTICAL COUNCIL

The National Statistical Council operates as a professional advisory and opinion-forming body beside the President of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office.

In addition to the organs belonging to the official statistical service, the representatives of interest representing organs, chambers, local governments, social security organisations, and the scientific community take part in the council. The Commissioner for Data Protection is a permanent invited guest of the meetings. The members and the president of the council are appointed by the Prime Minister for a definite term. The proposal is given – upon suggestion of the President of the HCSO – by the supervising Minister of the HCSO. The council has 32 members at present.

The task of the council is to express an opinion on the National Statistical Data Collection Programme (NSDCP), to represent the interests of society and to enforce the requirements of data users. It participates in the establishment of concepts and classifications, the development of statistical methodology, and takes a position on the issues remitted to its scope of duties.

The council operates according to approved standing orders.



#### **IV. PUBLICATIONS**

The results of data collections – with the exceptions of those subject to data protection – are all open to the public in accordance with the Act on Statistics No. XLVI of 1993. A wide range of statistical information is available to all users varied both in content and form. First releases are published in 31 topics 225 times a year. In addition, in 2006 we issued 368 thematic and comprehensive analyses, yearbooks and other types of publications. Pre-defined tables and databases are disseminated via the internet and on CD-ROMs. An increasing part (now more than 80%) of published data and publications are available free of charge on the [website of HCSO](#).

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