

Beginners:Statistical concept - What are official statistics?

Statistics Explained



This page is part of [Statistics 4 beginners](#) , a section in Statistics Explained where statistical indicators and [concepts](#) are explained in a simple way to make the world of statistics a bit easier both for pupils and students as well as for all those with an interest in statistics.

Official statistics are statistics produced within a national statistical system. National statistical systems include statistical organisations and units within a country that jointly collect, process and disseminate official statistics on behalf of the national government. Official statistics are usually collected within a **legal framework** , and in accordance with **basic principles** which ensure minimum professional standards, such as independency and objectivity. For example for the European Union, the legal framework is based on the European regulation (EC) No 223/2009 and the set of principles are called the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Official statistics serve as a basis for decisions, for example, for politicians and policy makers: democratic societies cannot function properly without a solid basis of reliable and objective statistics.

Non-official statistics include statistics collected and published by other bodies.

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