

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADISTICA



Confidentiality policy

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The preservation of statistical secrecy in the INE.

Confidentiality policy

The National Statistics Institute (INE) bases its work on the trust that citizens and companies have in it, through the information that they provide, and it is necessary for society and the institutions to entrust the National Statistical System with the statistics so as to ensure their compilation.

At the base of this trust are the guarantees that chapter 3 of the Law on Public Statistical Services (LFEP) establishes, which protects secrecy for all individual information handled in the different phases of statistical production.

Moreover, the following facts must be taken into consideration:

Spanish legislation has strict rules regarding the protection of personal data and the security of the media where such data is stored, (Organic Law on Data Protection and the National Security Framework, among others), as well as auditing bodies of those procedures established in said rules.

The regulations that have been passed in the EU on this subject for the preparation of community statistics (Regulation 223/2009, Regulation 557/2013) are applied directly.

The INE, and the entire statistical system of the General State Administration have adopted the [European Statistics Code of Practice](#), for all statistics within the National Statistical Plan. At first, number 5 of said code includes different indicators that enable performing an assessment of the assurance of confidentiality.

In order to guarantee full compliance with its legal obligations in terms of the protection of statistical secrecy, and in its intention of remaining worthy of the trust of its respondents, the INE bases its actions on the following principles:

Principle 1: "To establish effective procedures for the custody of confidential information that is managed throughout all the phases of the statistical process".

- There will be specific rules regarding the security of the information in the data collection processes and systems.
- There will be a security policy that, in accordance with the standards required by the National Security Framework, considers the measures that must be developed in order to protect and preserve statistical information. This shall be applied to all production processes and information systems of the INE.
- In general dissemination systems, the information published will be anonymised.

Principle 2: "To guarantee the knowledge of all personnel in the organisation of the obligation of preserving statistical secrecy, and of the procedures established to this end at any given moment".

- In the ongoing training plans, training and updating courses will be programmed regarding statistical secrecy, and manuals will be available with the relevant legal information and the techniques and recommendations regarding its application.

Principle 3: *"To notify survey participants regarding the protection that is provided for the data supplied"*.

- Notifications of participation and questionnaires submitted to those citizens and companies that collaborate in the surveys shall contain information regarding the protection of individual data by the application of statistical secrecy set out in the LFEP.
- The interviewing personnel will be suitably trained regarding the protection that statistical secrecy provides to data, and shall notify the interviewees of this guarantee.

Principle 4: *"To notify statistics users of the restrictions on the information provided, for the purpose of the protection of statistical secrecy"*.

- In the dissemination systems, the data protected by statistical secrecy will appear especially labelled.
- The methodological reports will inform on the general methods applied to protect the information.
- The use of confidential data for research with scientific objectives, set out in the European legislation, shall be subject to strict access rules.

Principle 5: *"To guarantee the preservation of statistical secrecy in those cases of the lending of confidential data, set out in the LFEP, to other institutions with statistical responsibilities or jurisdiction"*.

- The necessary mechanisms shall be established in order to ensure compliance with the conditions set out in the Law on Public Statistical Services or other applicable tools.
- All loans of confidential data shall be formalised via institutional contracts or agreements.