

# Statistical organization in Spain

The Statistical system of the State Administration is in charge of the compilation of official statistics of the Spanish State (statistics for state purposes), as well as the official statistics of the European Statistical System (European Statistics).

Indeed, given the administrative organization,<sup>1</sup> In Spain there is a statistical system available for each Autonomous Community. This system creates statistics for its territorial area, which are assigned by the respective legal standards (Autonomy Statutes, statistical laws, statistics plans, etc.).

## Statistical system of the State Administration

1. The highest-level legal reference in Spain regarding statistical activity is to be found in the Spanish Constitution of 1978, which, in article 149. 31a establishes that the *State has exclusive jurisdiction regarding statistics for state purposes*.

2. Law 12/1989, of 9 May, on the Public Statistical Services (LFEP)<sup>2</sup> are the basic legal regulations for carrying out the statistical activity in the General State Administration. This law sets out the principles governing the statistical activity, regulates the collection of data, its keeping and dissemination of results, institutes the conditions in which response is obligatory, regulates statistical secrecy, introduces statistical production planning and regulates statistical institutions, both executive and advisory.

3. According to the LFEP, the public statistical function in the scope of the GAS is developed by the National Statistics Institute (INE); the ministerial department units and those of any other public institutions dependent on them, to whom that function has been entrusted, and the High Council on Statistics. The following advisory bodies should also be added to these: The Interministerial Statistics Commission and the Interterritorial Statistics Committee.

4. The *National Statistics Institute*<sup>3</sup> is an Autonomous Body affiliated to the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, the President of which, ranking as Subsecretary, is appointed and separated by the Government by means of Royal Decree, after nomination by the Minister of Economy and Competitiveness. The INE is the central body of the official statistics in Spain, and has important functions and jurisdiction, enshrined in article 26 of the LFEP, summarised below: the general coordination of statistical services of the State Administration and the monitoring and supervision of the technical duties of central government statistical units, the formulation of the draft project of the National Statistical Plan (NSP) and of the annual programmes developed, the proposal of rules regarding concepts, definitions, units, statistics, classifications, nomenclatures and codes for the classification of data and the presentation of results, the application and supervision of the compliance of the statistical secrecy rules regarding the compilation of statistics for state purposes, the compilation of general censuses, of large surveys and of the integrated systems of the economic accounts and of demographic and social statistics, use for statistical

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<sup>1</sup> Spain is divided into 17 Autonomous Communities and two Autonomous Cities. An Autonomous Community is a territorial entity which, within the constitutional code, is conferred legislative autonomy and executive jurisdiction, as well as the ability for self-government by means of its own representatives. The structure of the Spanish State in Autonomous Communities is included within the Spanish Constitution of 1978.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-1989-10767>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2001-9097>

purposes of data on file at administrative sources and promotion of its use by other statistical services, the creation of directories, the compilation and carrying out of statistical projects entrusted by the NSP, an international relations exercise in statistics and professional perfection of statistics personnel, and the signing of agreements with other Public Administrations regarding the statistics entrusted.

5. The *statistical services*<sup>1</sup> of the ministerial departments, according to the act 33 of the LFEP, have the following functions, among others: the cooperation, within its jurisdiction, with the INE regarding the formulation of the draft project of the National Statistical Plan (NSP) and its annual updating, the implementation and monitoring of the enforcement of the statistical secrecy standards regarding the creation of statistics for state purposes which are entrusted, the use for statistical purposes of administrative data belonging to the department to which they are assigned, the creation and undertaking of statistical projects entrusted by the National Statistical Plan, the publication and dissemination of the results and the methodological characteristics of the statistics carried out and the signing of agreements with other Public Administrations regarding the statistics entrusted.

6. The *High Council on Statistics*<sup>2</sup> is an advisory body of the statistical services of the GAS, and of the involvement of informants, producers and users of official statistics, where trade union and business organisations and other social, economic and academic groups are represented, together with ministries, the Bank of Spain and the INE. It is presided over by the Minister of Economy and Competitiveness, the President of the INE acts as Vicepresident and has approximately forty members. It aims to contribute to harmonising statistics, improving the use of resources intended for their compilation, and to adapting them to the users' needs for information, as well as to making it easier for respondents to supply primary data. It passes judgment on the draft project of the NSP and on all projects involving implementation of new statistics submitted to it, in addition to formulating recommendations and dealing with queries.

7. The *Interministerial Statistics Commission*<sup>3</sup> is attached to the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, through the INE. It is a participative organ of the statistical services in charge of this activity in the scope of the GAS. It is presided over by the President of the INE, with the general directors of the INE as members, and the general subdirectors of the organic units of each Ministry in which the main statistical production or coordination activity is located, as well as the head of the Statistics Department of the Bank of Spain. Its main objectives are as follows: to horizontally coordinate the activity of statistical services, to integrate the statistical information systems in relation to the different sectors and themes, to encourage the rational use of available data sources and ascertain the implementation, review or record suppression projects and administrative forms when these are the source of the statistics.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ine.es/en/normativa/leyes/resumenorg2\\_en.pdf](http://www.ine.es/en/normativa/leyes/resumenorg2_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-1990-19377>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-1990-19376>

8. The *Interterritorial Statistics Committee*<sup>1</sup> (CITE) is an official body incorporated in tandem by the representatives of the GAS and of the Autonomous Communities. It is presided over by the President of the INE, and its vice-president is a representative of the Autonomous Communities elected by majority, with representatives of the Statistics Office of each Autonomous Community as Committee members. The Interterritorial Statistics Committee is a permanent official body in charge of overseeing the coordination, cooperation and standardisation of statistical matters between the State and the Autonomous Communities.

9. The Statistical system of the State Administration can establish collaborations with each one of the statistical systems of the Autonomous Communities in order to prevent duplications and to reduce the workload of the informants, in accordance with the respective statistical laws. The LFEP indicates that "the statistical service of the State and the Autonomous Communities will establish the forms of cooperation appropriate in each moment in order to take the most advantage of the information available and to prevent unnecessary duplication of the operations of collection of data or others".

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ine.es/en/normativa/leyes/cite/normativa\\_cite\\_en.pdf](http://www.ine.es/en/normativa/leyes/cite/normativa_cite_en.pdf)