

Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Tajikistan

**Final Report
December 2025**

This report was prepared in partnership between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Union), and the Statistical Office of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), in cooperation with the Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan



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List of abbreviations

BPM6	Balance of Payments Manual
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interview
CATI	Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview
CAWI	Computer-Assisted Web Interview
CES	Conference of European Statisticians
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CIS-STAT	Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States
COICOP	Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose
CPA	Statistical Classification of Products by Activity
CPI	Consumer Price Index
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FISIM	Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured
GAMSO	Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFS	Government Finance Statistics
GFSM	Government Finance Statistics Manual
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLOS	Generic Law on Official Statistics
GPS	Global Positioning System
GSBPM	Generic Statistical Business Process Model
HBS	Household Budget Survey
HLG-PCCB	High-Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
ICD10	International Classification of Diseases
ICD11	International Classification of Diseases for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics
ICP	International Comparison Program
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOT	Input-output tables
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
IT	Information Technology
LFS	Labour Force Survey
NSO	National Statistics Office
NSS	National Statistical System
PPI	Producer Price Index
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange
SEEA	System of Environmental and Economic Accounting
SNA	System of National Accounts

SUT	Supply and Use Tables
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VNR	Voluntary National Review



Preface

The Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Tajikistan was undertaken in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), at the request of the Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan (in the remainder of this report referred to as Agency on Statistics).

The Global Assessment was conducted by Ms. Claudia Junker (Eurostat), Mr. Lars Svennebye (Statistics Norway, representing EFTA), Mr. Steinn Kári Steinsson (Statistics Iceland, representing EFTA), Mr. Rami Peltola (UNECE), Ms. Stela Derivolcov (UNECE) and Mr. Taeke Gjaltema (lead expert—UNECE), in cooperation with the managers and staff of the Agency on Statistics.

This Global Assessment was organized largely following the procedures of the new round of assessments planned for the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, using an adapted methodology based on feedback from these countries and users of previous assessment reports.

The Global Assessment Team carried out a mission to Dushanbe in May 2025. This report and its recommendations are based on discussions during that mission, as well as documentation provided by the Agency on Statistics, including a self-assessment questionnaire completed by Agency on Statistics' staff before the mission to Dushanbe.

The collaboration between the international experts and the staff of the Agency on Statistics was positive and constructive throughout all phases of the work. The international experts would like to thank the Agency on Statistics' management and staff for this.

Summary Conclusions

Overall, the Global Assessment team was impressed by the professionalism and dedication of the Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and other producers of official statistics. Despite limited resource a comprehensive programme of work is managed. Some highlights:

- Considerable efforts have been made to improve the statistical infrastructure and to adapt statistical data to international standards.
- In a short period, the Agency on Statistics managed to move from paper to electronic reporting, with built in validation.
- Tajikistan was one of the very few countries that managed to conduct the census on time in 2020.
- A solid Business Register and a good collaboration with the tax committee exists.
- Overall, the new draft Law of Official Statistics looks very well.
- Despite limited resources, the IT hardware infrastructure of the Agency on Statistics is up to date.
- For several surveys, access to integral micro data is provided to researchers.
- Significant improvements were made to the website of the Agency in terms of user friendliness and an increased availability of data.

Since the previous Global Assessment, various improvements have been made, and recommendations were implemented. The biggest challenge are financial and human resources. The Agency on Statistics is relatively small and has only a limited budget to do all the tasks that need to be done. To mitigate neutral budget actions can be taken such as:

- Reflecting on the structure and more flexibility in allocating resources, digitalisations, cancelling obsolete statistical products and other measures to achieve efficiencies.
- Develop staff training, sharing of experiences and collaboration with universities to improve curriculum of potential new staff.
- Introduce measures to attract and retain skilled staff.

Additional steps to further modernise the statistical production need to be made:

- Increase use of administrative data sources and ensure it is involved or consulted in improving the quality and alignment of concepts.
- Using new data sources, including privately held data and implement legislation to allow for access to these sources.
- Strengthen methodology and quality management and introduce overall quality framework and schedule to implement latest versions of international classifications.
- Share more timely and disaggregated data and include in release calendar when they are made available online.
- Further improving the website and a stronger focus on strategic communication of statistics and reach more users with products adapted to their needs.

In general, in all substantive areas, considering using new data source and implementing the latest international classifications is recommended. Other issues that were identified include:

- Prioritize full 2008 SNA implementation and include the 2025 SNA planning in the 2026 work programme.
- Improve coverage of non-declared im- and exports as well as of remittances in the Balance of Payment.
- Update CPI item sample and replace worksheet-based with more functional modern solution.
- Include information on enterprise groups in business register and improve geographic coding.
- Various actions are needed to be able to move to an administrative based census and the quality of administrative source needs to be checked based on survey.
- The LFS needs to be conducted more frequently and used to improve the quality and coverage of the registers of the Ministry of Labour.
- The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) should be used to validate the quality and coverage of the civil registration system.

All recommendations are listed in the next chapters with a brief description to clarify them. In Annex I, on the request of the Agency of Statistics, the experts formulated key recommendations for the longer term (2030 and beyond).

Chapter 1: Legal framework and professional independence

Overview

Official statistics in Tajikistan are currently governed by the following pieces of legislation:

- Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on State Statistics (No. 588, 12 January 2010) (with minor revisions in 2010 and 2013).
- Regulation on the Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Tajikistan (No. 862, 22 April 2010) (with revisions in 2011, 2013 and 2020).
- Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Population Census (No. 523, 19 May 2009).
- Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on the State Classifier of the Republic of Tajikistan Types of Economic Activity and Registered Entities of the Republic of Tajikistan (No. 496, 8 December 1998).

These pieces of legislation are implemented through various other resolutions and decrees, as well as the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics of the Republic of Tajikistan, the current version of which covers the period up to 2030, and annual statistical work programs. The strategy and work plans are also submitted to Parliament for approval, so have a quasi-legal status.

The current law meets most main requirements, but it is becoming increasingly outdated, for example in relation to access to administrative and other data sources. The Agency on Statistics has therefore prepared a new draft law, which has undergone several rounds of consultations, and is currently with the Parliament, for their scrutiny. The Generic Law on Official Statistics, prepared by UNECE, Eurostat and EFTA, was used as a source for the revisions introduced in the draft law. The Global Assessment team supports the efforts of the Agency to update the statistical legislation in Tajikistan. The comments and recommendations in this chapter refer to the draft law, as it stood at the time of the assessment mission (June 2025). In addition to the comments and recommendations in this chapter, several minor drafting suggestions were also forwarded to the Agency shortly after the Global Assessment mission.

The assessment team notes that the draft law is entitled “On Official Statistics”, rather than “On State Statistics” as before. This change is welcomed, as it clarifies the coverage of the law, and strengthens the link to the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS).

The draft law strengthens the right of access to administrative data for statistical purposes (Article 11). Extending the right of access to other non-statistical sources (e.g. privately held data, such as scanner data), would help to “future-proof” this part of the law. Based on experiences in other countries, the need to have access to a wider range of data sources is likely to become more important over the next 10 years.

The concept of a National Statistical System (NSS) is introduced and defined in Article 2 of the draft law as “a set of state statistics bodies and producers of official statistics producing and disseminating official statistics”. In the same Article, producers of official statistics are defined as “state authorities, the National Bank of Tajikistan, local state authorities and self-government bodies of settlements and villages, carrying out statistical activities in accordance

with the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan”. This seems to set the scope of the NSS as being the Agency on Statistics (including its regional and local bodies) as well as the National Bank. However, to facilitate possible future expansions of the membership of the NSS, it would be useful to explicitly state the criteria for inclusion in the NSS. Based on international experiences, these criteria would normally include compliance with the FPOS, and inclusion of activities in the annual statistical work programme. It could also be useful to explicitly state that the Agency has the role of the coordinator of the NSS (this is currently implied in Article 7(1)).

Article 25 of the draft law concerns the quality of official statistics and is generally in line with international good practices. However, this Article could be further strengthened by making reference to a national quality assurance framework, preferably one that is applicable to the whole NSS, and is in line with the United Nations National Quality Assurance Framework Manual (<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/>).

Article 26(1) of the draft law requires the Agency and other producers of official statistics to “actively participate in international activities on the development and implementation of statistical standards and recommendations”, however, the draft law does not include any provisions to ensure the use of the latest versions of international (or national) standards or classifications. This could be addressed either in Article 26, or in Chapter 3 on statistical activities.

The draft law makes provisions in Article 8 for an Interdepartmental Statistical Council. To help to ensure professional independence, and to strengthen alignment with international best practices, it should be clarified in the draft law that this council has an advisory role, rather than an oversight role.

Also related to professional independence, it is widely recognised as international best practice (including in the Generic Law on Official Statistics) that laws on official statistics should include provisions relating to the appointment and dismissal of the head of the national statistical office. The purpose of this is to ensure that appointments and dismissals are done in line with strictly professional criteria and are not politically motivated. This is seen as a key part of professional independence for official statistics and statisticians. In Tajikistan, it seems that it is not currently possible to include such measures in the draft law. This is because there is already higher-level legislation on the appointment and dismissal of senior civil servants, which is applied across all government ministries and agencies. The Agency doesn’t believe that it will be possible to get an exemption from that legislation in a reasonable timescale for the finalisation of the draft law on official statistics. Whilst including provisions on strictly professional criteria for the appointment and dismissal of the head of the Agency in future statistical legislation should remain a long-term goal, a short-term solution, in the interests of transparency, could be to include text in the draft law that refers to the legislation under which the head of the Agency is appointed or dismissed.

Overall, the Global Assessment team sees the opportunity of modernising statistical legislation in Tajikistan as very positive, and hope that the recommendations from this report can help to maximise the benefit of the new law over the coming years.

Recommendations

1. The Agency on Statistics should expand the mandate for data collection in the draft law to include access to privately held data.
2. The Agency on Statistics should specify the criteria for NSS membership and the coordination role of the Agency within the NSS.
3. The Agency on Statistics should enhance the Article on quality in the draft law by adding a reference to a national quality assurance framework.
4. The Agency on Statistics should insert references in the draft law to the use of the latest versions of relevant standards and classifications.
5. The Agency on Statistics should clarify in the draft law that the role of the Interdepartmental Statistical Council is as an advisory body.
6. The Agency Statistics should either include criteria for the appointment and dismissal of the head of the Agency in the draft law, or, if not possible at this time, provide a reference in the draft law to the legislation that covers these points.

Chapter 2: Coordination and cooperation

Coordination of the National Statistical System

Tajikistan's statistical system is centralized, with the Agency on Statistics under the President acting as the lead institution. Other institutions, including the National Bank, Ministry of Finance, Customs Service, and line ministries such as Health, Education, and Environment, also contribute with data.

The Interdepartmental Statistical Council supports policy development, methodological improvements, and innovation. The Agency on Statistics leads interagency cooperation efforts, while mechanisms such as open data dissemination, press briefings, and user feedback enhance accountability and public trust. The Agency of Digitalisation was established to drive country modernisation and digitalisation efforts and the establishment of cooperation between the two institutions is under way.

Statistical activities are guided by annual and quarterly programmes covering 231 forms, combining surveys with administrative records. Legal provisions make reporting obligatory for institutions and individuals, with penalties for misreporting. Cooperation with line ministries is formalized through agreements, leading to practical data-sharing systems, such as EMIS for education, DEFIS for health, and environmental accounts.

The Agency on Statistics also chairs methodology councils and is preparing an integrated data platform to strengthen interoperability across ministries. These measures aim to improve the timeliness, transparency, and quality of statistics to better inform national policy and align with international standards.

Coordination with Donors and International cooperation

International cooperation plays an important role in strengthening the system. The Agency has longstanding partnerships with the World Bank, IMF, UN agencies, FAO, ESCAP and others, contributing to SDG monitoring and benefiting from targeted donor support (e.g., EU on health data, FAO on agriculture, UNFPA on demographic statistics). Participation in global platforms such as IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB has supported alignment with international standards.

Despite these efforts, international cooperation remains largely project-based and fragmented. Challenges include limited sustainability of donor support, difficulties in maintaining modern IT and SDMX systems, and insufficient mechanisms for sharing knowledge from international training across all staff. At the same time, a long perspective vision on the various areas (IT, communication and dissemination, human resources, etc.) would structure and focus the efforts, avoiding duplication and overlap of resources.

Overall, The Agency and its partners have made significant progress in strengthening coordination and cooperation, despite limited resources. To ensure sustainability, further efforts are needed to institutionalize collaboration across agencies, develop long-term strategies on IT, quality and communication, and make fuller use of international support for capacity development.

Assessment

The Global Assessment team met highly motivated and dedicated professionals. The GA team can recommend continuing the current initiatives while keeping in mind the following considerations and proposals:

Recommendations

7. The Agency on Statistics should develop a set of specific strategies to support the overall strategy of the agency such as on IT, quality, and communication, staff training.
8. The Agency should ensure it has an official consultative status with the Agency of Digitalization to ensure quality and alignment with statistical concepts.
9. The Agency should ensure it is part of any discussion on cross-agency projects.
10. The Agency's staff should share outcome of international training and workshops to all staff.
11. The Agency on Statistics should have input in the curriculum of statistical courses in secondary and tertiary education.

Chapter 3: Mandate for data collection

The mandate for data collection seems to be clear and there are no issues collecting data from ministries, government agencies, enterprises or individuals. The statistical program states data requirements from other agencies and it has been followed. The Agency on Statistics has the power to apply fines in case enterprises fail to provide data. Data from governmental agencies is mostly received in aggregated format and request for micro data may not have been fully tested as the agency generally does not request data on micro level.

With the work on the new law on statistics in final stages the Agency on Statistics should consider expanding the mandate for data collection to privately held data such as mobile phone- or internet data or data on purchases of goods from supermarkets (scanner data). Keeping in mind that the law on statistics is not changed very frequently it is important to consider future needs for data.

Recommendations

12. The Agency on Statistics must get access to administrative data bases of micro data for statistical purposes.
13. The Agency should expand the mandate for data collection to include access to privately held data.
14. The Agency should explore new data sources, including privately owned data, like e.g. transaction data from cash registers.

Chapter 4: Adequacy of resources

The Agency on Statistics has implemented some of the recommendations from the previous global assessment in 2012, such as the organisation of training in English for its experts but many of the recommendations from that assessment are still relevant, though in a slightly adjusted manner. New areas of improvement were also identified and corresponding recommendations issued.

Structure and Organisation

The Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan is subordinated to the President of the Republic and reports to the executive office of the President. It consists of the central agency (with around 67 staff), the main computing centre (with 168 positions, of which 78 are currently occupied), 68 regional offices and 4 oblast offices. Of the total number of positions for the Agency and its regional and oblast offices (527), 479 are currently occupied, leading to a vacancy rate of around 9%.

The posts in the Agency and its regional offices are distributed as follows: 67 for the Agency, 48 for the oblast office of Dushanbe, 125 for the oblast of Sughd, 160 for the oblast of Khalton, 32 in the region of Gbao and 48 in districts of regional subordination.

Regional statistical offices are the main receivers of paper-based questionnaires from respondents and jamoats (rural municipalities) and their main tasks are the transformation of paper questionnaires into electronic data files that are transmitted to the main computing centre. Jamoats are equipped with notebooks and keep so-called household books with a lot of data. Data are transmitted by both urban and rural municipalities to the responsible regional statistical office, which in turn processes and partly validates data before they are transmitted to the main computing centre of the Agency on Statistics.

The main computing centre employs staff, which are not civil servants, most of them being IT specialists and programmers. Its main tasks and responsibilities are related to receiving filled in questionnaires and reports from the respondent units and the regional statistical offices, checking them for correctness, processing them and transferring the data to the Agency for further validation and publishing. The computing centre also receives data from the holders of administrative registers and processes them further for producing official statistics.

With the introduction of e-reporting from statistical respondents, and the possibility of a direct data transfer from the municipalities to the computing centre, the nature of the work and tasks of the regional statistical offices as well as of the main computing centre may need to be changed as electronic reporting will replace paper questionnaires and render the process of collecting and transmitting data more efficient and less human resource-intensive.

In this regard, it may be useful for the Agency on Statistics to reflect on the structure of the Agency and its sub-ordinated bodies. While some contact points in urban and rural municipalities may still be necessary for maintaining good relationships with and training of respondents, some other bodies may no longer be necessary or may be reduced in terms of resources. Also, the ongoing digitalisation of statistical reporting channels, an increasing use of available administrative data and the need to focus more on methodology and analytical work may lead to reduced needs for staff in the computing centre and increased numbers of staff in the Agency on Statistics, to work on areas such as methodology, quality and dissemination. Such reallocations may need to be reflected on, provided that budget flexibility is granted to the Agency on Statistics and reallocation between the main computing centre and

the Agency on Statistics and within departments of the Agency on Statistics are allowed by legislation.

Human resources

The Agency has a fixed number of staff allocated to fixed positions in the organisational structure and no right to reallocate staff to other positions, other departments or to move staff positions between the Agency and the main computing centre. If a staff member wants to move to another department, this is possible based on an application of the staff members and on the availability of a post in the other department. Promotions of staff to higher positions take place through an application and a competition. This strictly regulated system of allocation of posts creates obstacles for assigning staff to newly emerging priority tasks, such as the implementation of the new SNA2025. It also makes the structure of the Agency very rigid and thus prevents more frequent rotations for especially younger and new recruits, who could benefit from a more flexible mobility scheme to enhance their knowledge and increase motivation to stay in the Agency.

Most of the staff at the Agency has higher education and with the age structure of the Agency being very balanced between different age groups, a rather high share of young staff (almost 50% for the age group of 18-35 years) can be observed. Also, the share of new recruits is rather high as roughly 1/3 of the newly recruited staff stays less than 5 years in the Agency.

Furthermore, at current there is no process of assessing available skills of staff, neither a process to identify skills needed in the future, which is important in view of latest developments in official statistics, the move towards using other data sources than statistical surveys. Training of staff is done on an ad-hoc basis, when a training need is expressed by a member of staff and when in-house experience is available to conduct the training. Also, some staff of the Agency is attending training courses offered by international donor but to make better use of the learnings and results of those few external training courses, the Agency should consider making better use of the learnings and results of those few external training courses through a more systematic sharing of information in the Agency.

The structure of the staff with many new recruits necessitates to put in place comprehensive training programmes in different areas of statistics and the use of IT for data processing and validation. To address the structural issue behind the lack of systematic training, the Agency could consider using the knowledge of academic circles and drawing on the expertise of universities to conduct such training courses. Moreover, the involvement of and engagement with universities could at the same time help in identifying potential future recruits for the Agency. These training programmes are necessary to enhance the knowledge of the Agency's staff, especially the new recruits, in the production of official statistics and in IT programming for statistical processing. They could also be supportive in increasing the attractiveness of the Agency as an employer to recruit IT and methodology staff but also to increase the motivation of staff to stay in the Agency.

In order to improve the training offer further, the Agency could put in place a more systematic assessment of training needs by its staff, including training needs for new areas such as the treatment and processing of data from new data sources. This will help to design a comprehensive training programme for the staff of the Agency, which could potentially be used to ask international donors for support.

Appointment procedures

High level appointments on the level of the director of the Agency and deputy directors are made by the President of the Republic while appointments of heads of departments and

divisions in the headquarters are either based on competitions or made from the reserve list of potential managers, with the majority of appointments at this level having been done through the latter procedure in the past years. Expert staff is appointed based on competitions.

In the regional offices, the appointment procedures for the heads are different. The head of a regional office is appointed by the Director of the Agency, based on a recommendation from the local administration of the region, with sometimes an interview being held to check knowledge on statistics. It is advisable that the recruitment procedures through the Agency and its regional offices are harmonised and preferably based on the management and knowledge capacity to lead a regional statistical office.

Financial resources

The budget for the Agency for Statistics and the main computing centre starts being built with input from the 68 regional and 4 oblast offices, which send their financial request for the next year (a budget figure per staff member) to the Agency. The Agency in turn calculates the total budget needed for the Agency and its subordinated offices for the following year and sends its proposal to the Ministry of Finance. The budget is approved by the Ministry and provided to the Agency on a quarterly basis, with different percentages of the total budget applied to each quarter. There is a link between the annual work programme for statistical works as the programme contains information on the budget needed but the budget provided to the Agency is usually lower than what is indicated in the work programme. Roughly 69% of the budget are needed for salaries while 31% are used for all other services. There is no budget provided for international travel and attendance of workshops and seminars abroad. For IT equipment, the Agency receives 20000 USD per year, which is sufficient to obtain some computers but not for investments into the renewals of the IT infrastructure. These are usually covered by foreign donors, the latest being a project financed by the World Bank. For the renovation of the building or other larger investments, the Agency can request budget from the government, but the requests may not always be granted.

While the budget is divided by budget lines, like the one for salaries, there is no flexibility to use non-used parts of the salary budget (for example created by vacancies) for other purposes, even for increasing the salaries of the other staff except for a small temporary increase not exceeding 30%. Salaries in the main computing centre and in the regional offices are lower than in the Agency for Statistics and salaries in the Agency for Statistics are slightly lower than those in Ministries and not competitive with those in the private sector.

There is no link between the national strategy for the development of statistics and the annual programme of statistical works.

For censuses, the Agency receives a separate budget from the government based on a well-built case on the necessity for the country to conduct it, as was the case for the population census in 2020.

Recommendations

Structure and Organisation

15. The Agency on Statistics is encouraged to reflect on the organizational structure of the Agency and its subordinated bodies, including on the role of the main computing centre, in view of the ongoing digitalization.

16. The Agency on Statistics is encouraged to consider reallocating resources from processes profiting of increased digitalization to areas in need of strengthening such as IT, methodology, quality, dissemination and communication and other central support services.

Human resources

17. The Agency on Statistics is encouraged to reflect on ways to internally reallocate resources between budget lines while considering best practices from countries with similar conditions.
18. The Agency of Statistics should consider making Environment and agriculture as two separate departments or teams.
19. The Agency on Statistics should identify skills presents and skills needed, including for processing new data sources and accordingly develop a staff training programme.
20. The Agency on Statistics should share outcome of international training and workshops to all staff in the Agency in a systematic way.
21. The Agency on Statistics is encouraged to consider making the mobility scheme among its staff more flexible for qualified staff.
22. The Agency on Statistics should consider applying a uniform appointment procedure at national and regional level, based on competitions.
23. The Agency on Statistics is encouraged to pilot the introduction of flexible working hours to increase motivation of staff and its attractiveness as an employer.
24. The Agency on Statistics should enhance cooperation with universities on statistical courses and programming, also in view of attracting graduates as future staff of the Agency.

Chapter 5: Commitment to quality

The Agency on Statistics does not have a department or division dealing with quality, as work on quality is part of the division of Statistical Methodology and Classifications. While the statistical law mentions the basic principles such as relevance, objectivity, scientific validity, timeliness, reliability, impartiality, statistical confidentiality, transparency, openness, accessibility and consistency to ensure quality of official statistics, it does not include any further reference to the quality standards applied or an overall quality framework.

Hence, at current work on quality is mostly limited to checking the quality of primary data from respondents, which have to follow the provisions of an administrative code by which they are obliged to provide reliable and true data. Management inspection missions take place to control data quality on the ground. Also, administrative data used to produce official statistics are quality-checked by the primary receivers of the data. However, no concept on quality going beyond the mere quality of primary data exists, so no quality policy has been developed to put quality management in a broader framework.

The Agency on Statistics has plans to further develop work on the quality of administrative data and cooperate with international organisations in the area of quality but lacks direction and guidance on how to develop a quality framework for the Agency and the national statistical system.

Furthermore, while the statistical business process model is applied for statistical processes, it is not used to put the monitoring of data quality at a more systematic level.

As quality of data and hence, an underlying quality framework for a national statistical systems and its products are essential elements of a modern statistical system and a comparative advantage of official statistics in the world of data, the Agency on Statistics has an opportunity to step up its work on quality in the forthcoming years, by including quality into its new statistical law and by developing a broader quality framework and quality assurance framework, including the quality of survey data, administrative data and new data sources. To support this conceptual work and subsequently the implementation of the quality framework, the Agency is encouraged to establish a specific division or group on quality, which could develop, with the support of international donors, a quality framework and a corresponding quality management system and start using process frameworks such as the GSBPM for quality monitoring at all stages of the statistical production.

Recommendations

25. The Agency on Statistics is encouraged to consider creating a horizontal department on methodology and quality, to support the development of quality frameworks.
26. The Agency on Statistics should develop an overall quality management system underpinning the implementation of a quality framework.

27. The Agency on Statistics is recommended to Implement the GAMS0/GSBPM, for example for quality management and to identify areas where efficiency gains can be made.

3 *The Agency on Statistics should enhance the Article on quality in the draft law by adding a reference to a national quality assurance framework.*

Chapter 6: Statistical confidentiality and data protection

Overview

Data confidentiality is defined in the legislation on official statistics, with further guidance on practical implementation provided through internal documentation of various producers of official statistics. The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics also reinforces the principle of ensuring confidentiality in the processing of statistical data.

Respondents are informed of their rights and obligations when providing information. All statistical survey forms include a statement on the front page indicating that the information collected is used exclusively for statistical purposes.

Assessment

Since the previous Global Assessment, good progress has been made in strengthening data protection. The adoption of new technologies has enabled more effective safeguards for data confidentiality. However, these advancements also introduce new legal and technical requirements to ensure the security and confidentiality of data across different platforms.

The enhanced institutional independence of official statistics producers has further contributed to improved confidentiality practices. The Agency on Statistics has also benefited from international guidance and the experiences of other countries in adopting best practices.

However, to fully comply with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (Principle 6), the new law on official statistics should more clearly articulate the exclusive use of primary statistical data for statistical purposes, without allowing any exceptions to this principle.

Improving awareness among both data users and providers about data protection and confidentiality is essential. This would help ensure the accuracy of responses in statistical surveys and censuses, and clarify the appropriate use of statistical data for various purposes, contributing to greater transparency.

Providing access to microdata for research purposes must be done in full compliance with confidentiality and data protection requirements. The Agency on Statistics plans to conduct seminars to raise awareness of these issues through various forums and communication channels.

Recommendations

28. The Agency on Statistics must strengthen the provision on the exclusive use of primary statistical data for statistical purposes by removing any exceptions in the new statistical law.
29. The Agency should improve communication of data confidentiality rules and practices to respondents.

Chapter 7: Sound methodology

Overview

Statistical methodologies and the selection of data sources are solely based on professional and scientific criteria. This is supported by legislative and institutional frameworks, as well as the country's international commitments.

The Agency on Statistics ensures alignment with international standards by incorporating global recommendations and codes of practice into national legislation and methodological frameworks and is committed to upholding the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

A system is in place to implement core international standards and methodologies, ensuring that statistical indicators meet user needs. Current data dissemination practices, including the provision of required metadata, broadly follow the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). Metadata are provided alongside key indicators such as national accounts, consumer and producer price indices, government finance statistics, monetary statistics, and balance of payments.

Assessment

Adhering to the latest international recommendations and learning from the experiences of other countries is essential to maintaining sound methodology across all statistical domains. The Agency on Statistics recognizes the importance of implementing international systems for data and metadata exchange, such as the SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange) standard, to enhance metadata availability and transparency for users.

A key methodological improvement would be the adoption of a statistical classification of products (goods and services) in line with the revised Classification of Products by Activity (CPA 2008), as well as updating the employment classification in accordance with the revised ISCO-88. It is also necessary to develop a full set of annual accounts by institutional sector and to produce quarterly estimates of key macroeconomic indicators, in line with the requirements of the 2008 SNA.

The academic and research community has expressed interest in contributing to methodological discussions through a dedicated working group.

The Agency on Statistics should ensure that detailed metadata, including descriptions of statistical methods and procedures, are made available through its website. Planned improvements in the use of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) will support better documentation of statistical production processes and methodologies.

The Agency has identified several priority areas for methodological development. These include the modernization of the statistical business register and the improvement of classification systems in line with international standards. There is also a growing emphasis on the use of administrative and big data sources. Methodological studies are planned to improve the calculation of industrial production capacity utilization and the accounting of production costs in both industry and construction. International experience will be reviewed to enhance construction statistics, particularly in sampling, data collection, and the estimation of the non-observed economy in construction.

In response to the evolving digital economy, the Agency on Statistics is developing methodologies for sample surveys that capture new forms of goods and services provision via the Internet. Broader improvements in data collection methods are also underway, including the development of new approaches for household sample surveys. Efforts are also being made to harmonize methodologies for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators with international standards.

Recommendations

30. The Agency on Statistics should plan to implement the latest versions of international statistical classifications for example move from ICD10 to ICD11.
31. The Agency is encouraged to study practices of other countries to improve statistical registers.
32. The Agency should further improve the use of administrative data sources and privately held data for official statistics.
33. The Agency should improve the quality of quarterly economic statistics by exploring possibilities to receive more data on a discrete quarterly basis; new opportunities may follow the adoption of the new State Budget law.

Chapter 8: Appropriate statistical procedures and cost-effectiveness

Overview

The Agency on Statistics has been gradually modernising and digitising its statistical production processes, mainly through a series of projects. A lot of progress has been made, and cost-effectiveness seems to have significantly improved. Compliance with international standards within the National Statistical System of Tajikistan is generally high. Adoption of best practices from other countries has increased, mainly following training seminars, study visits, and other international exchanges of experience.

Some staff of the Agency are aware of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), and the general international work on standards-based modernisation of official statistics, as well as moves towards more process-based statistical production. However, the Agency is not yet using the GSBPM as a basis to systematically document and evaluate statistical production processes. Other countries that have done this have reported significant benefits relating to improving efficiency and cost-effectiveness through greater standardisation of processes. Internationally, GSBPM-based documentation of processes is increasingly being used to support the implementation of quality assurance frameworks. The Agency now seems to be at the stage in its development where it could really benefit from following international good practices in this area.

In common with many other national statistical systems, the Agency is seeing a shift from paper to electronic data collection, as well as increasing use of administrative and other non-statistical data sources. This is putting pressure on an organisation structure that was designed for local, manual data collection. Many other national statistical offices that are facing similar pressures, have considered how to reallocate resources from direct data collection to other activities that support data integration and the use of new data sources. This can imply moving some resources from regional structures to support centralised activities in the headquarters, particularly in areas such as methodology, quality assurance, information technology, dissemination and communication.

Recommendations

34. The Agency on Statistics should continue to implement GAMS/GSBPM, for example for quality management and to identify areas where efficiency gains can be made.
35. The Agency is encouraged to consider how digitalization can free resources that can be reallocated to strengthen central support services including IT, methodology, quality, dissemination and communication.

Chapter 9: Non-excessive burden on respondents

Producers of official statistics should balance their data needs against the reporting burden placed on respondents. The Agency on Statistics has over the last few years implemented an electronic reporting system. In addition to streamlining the entire data collection and production process, this has simplified the reporting procedure and reduced the response burden. The total number of forms distributed to respondents has been reduced from around 8 million in 2017 to 1.5 million in 2022. As of 2025, 231 different reporting forms are used, 100 of which are “interdepartmental”, i.e. addressed to ministries or other government bodies.

The Agency maintains a practice of collecting data from all enterprises, rather than from a rolling sample. The resulting high number of continuous reporting requirements, often with high frequency, significantly affects the response burden. The draft statistical law recognises this challenge and specifically mentions “simplification of government procedures and reduction of repetitive statistical reports” as one of the powers conferred upon the Agency (Article 7(11)). The Agency has an annual procedure in place for reviewing and potentially revising the reporting forms, involving all departments and divisions within the organisation.

Alternative data sources represent an opportunity for further reducing the response burden. Data already available in ministries and other government bodies should be used whenever feasible. New data sources, like open data from the web or “big data” in various forms should always be explored. This includes privately owned data, like e.g. transaction data from cash registers or mobile phone data from telecom operators.

Recommendations

36. The Agency is encouraged to reconsider the practice of full-coverage data collection from enterprises and consider a rolling sample approach as an alternative.
37. The Agency should continuously assess the number and content of the reporting forms in order to eliminate obsolete data requirements.
38. The Agency is encouraged to start exploring new data sources.

Chapter 10: Relevance, accessibility, impartiality, and clarity

Overview

All users need simultaneous access to new data, and they have to be aware when data is going to be released. This ensures equal access and signals impartiality. Article 16 on Dissemination of official statistical data of the new Law on State Statistics guarantees this:

‘2. The authorized agency shall timely disseminate information on the publication date and the metadata. 3. All users have the right of equal and simultaneous access to the data of official statistics except for the confidential data containing individual information concerning separate statistical units.’

The schedule of dissemination of statistical information is available from the website of the Agency on Statistics (and includes other producers of official statistics). It lists the periodicity and the planned date of release of publications. There is no information on if or when electronic data is made available. Information on delays and the reason for this are not provided.

Policy makers and other users need data that is relevant for making current decisions and these need to be based on most recent data and with sufficient disaggregation into relevant groups (e.g. age, geographical, social group). For many areas, the latest data available is from two or three years ago (and in the Open Data portal the latest data is often from 2020) and only totals or higher-level disaggregation are available.

Regular consultations with user groups ensure that data being produced is relevant. Quarterly user satisfaction surveys are conducted by the Agency on Statistics with academia, Ministries, international organisations, regional governments and embassies. This should also be used to see if existing collections can be dropped so resources can be allocated to more relevant ones.

It is important to meet on a regular basis with current and potential users to reflect on current and future needs and to also show potential services that could be delivered as they might not always be sufficiently aware of the options.

Recommendations

39. The Agency on Statistics needs to serve a broader group of users in society (general public, businesses etc.) and consult on their needs.
40. The Agency should invest in more timely and disaggregated data.
41. The Agency should publish an annual Release Calendar that includes online data with date and time of the release, and the Agency should plan accordingly and inform timely on delays.
42. The Agency on Statistics and other producers of Official Statistics should review the Statistical Programme to identify obsolete statistical products.

Chapter 11: Dissemination and Communication

Statistics are produced to be used. Reaching as many users as possible with statistics and data relevant for them, is therefore essential. At the Main Computing Center, an information and publishing department has been created to market and disseminate statistical information. To meaningfully engage with all the different user groups, it is necessary to setup a team responsible for all aspects of the communication of statistics, including for modernizing the website (as part of the publishing department or in collaboration with it). The focus should go beyond promoting publications and also include developing additional material tailored for different user groups and in an accessible and relevant format. It also includes a more active role in statistical literacy training of the different user groups. The statistical literacy is limited in Tajikistan. Including University students get limited exposure to statistics. In many countries, the National Statistical Office provides training or collaborates with education institutions on this. The good collaboration the Agency already has with various academic institutions can be extended for this. Researchers indicated they wanted access to micro data for research purposes. Promoting the availability of micro data for researchers through the National Data Archive might be useful and other (anonymized) surveys might be added (with an access approval procedure in place to ensure confidentiality and prevent misuse of information).

Users commented that the website of the Agency on Statistics had improved and was more user friendly. Data and Statistics are disseminated through Excel tables and publications in pdf format. Additionally, data is available from the Open Data portal where basic tables or maps can be produced, and tables can be modified and downloaded in Excel format. The Open Data portal does not provide metadata yet. The SDG portal was mentioned by users as a good user-friendly example.

Further improvements are foreseen and could include dedicated portals for specific user groups and more graphs and multi-dimensional interactive tables. Metadata is provided in pdf files, however, they are not tailored for specific user groups and especially for non-expert users it is difficult to understand which information is most relevant to interpret the data.

Overall, the Agency on Statistics has made good progress. It is important now to start developing a comprehensive strategic communication framework covering various aspects. It can be developed over time, starting with the more urgent aspects.

Recommendations

43. The Agency on Statistics should setup a dedicated communication and dissemination team and train staff.
44. The Agency should develop a Strategic Communication Framework, and consider covering areas such as:
 - a. Identification of user groups and develop products in accordance with their needs.
 - b. Training programs for data users, e.g. for media professionals on the use of the website and the interpretation of statistics.
 - c. Procedure for product and user-oriented metadata (adapted to user needs, and full details only through link).
 - d. Correction and error management procedures.
45. The Agency should further improve user friendliness, accessibility and consistency of the website.

46. The Agency should consider dedicated portals for specific user groups, for example pupils of primary schools or on specific themes, such as gender or environment.
47. The Agency should prevent duplication on other government websites by encouraging linking to the Agency's website.
48. The Agency should consider to better promote the use of the micro data available on the nada portal.
49. The Agency should publish data online as soon as it is officially released.
29. *The Agency should improve communication of data confidentiality rules and practices to respondents.*

Chapter 12: National Accounts and Government Finance Statistics

Overview

National Accounts

The Agency on Statistics compiles a broad set of indicators in accordance with the System of National Accounts (SNA). These include integrated accounts, institutional sector accounts, current and capital transfers, final consumption, changes in inventories, gross domestic product (GDP), gross national income, national disposable income, savings, gross capital formation, and net lending/borrowing. GDP at market prices is calculated using all three standard approaches: production, expenditure, and income.

The production approach is applied at both current and constant prices and is compiled monthly, quarterly, and annually. The expenditure approach is also calculated at current and constant prices, on a quarterly and annual basis. The income approach is currently applied only in current prices and on an annual basis. Additionally, gross regional product is estimated at both current and constant prices, with quarterly (cumulative) and annual frequency.

These calculations follow international standards, including NACE Rev. 2, 2008 SNA, Institutional Sector Classification, Classification of Goods and Services, BPM6, and 2001 Government Finance Statistics Manual (GFS 2001).

Government Finance Statistics

The compilation of government finance statistics is based on data provided monthly by the Ministry of Finance. These include preliminary data on an accrual basis and final annual data, which are typically available with a delay of approximately eight months. The classification of revenue and expenditure in the state budget aligns with the international standard GFS 2001.

Assessment

National Accounts

Despite limited resources, the Agency on Statistics has made significant progress in improving national accounts statistics since the previous global assessment. There has been substantial progress in transitioning from the 1993 SNA to the 2008 SNA, with many key elements already implemented. The transition from NACE Rev. 1 to NACE Rev. 2 has also been completed, fulfilling one of the requirements of the 2008 SNA.

Several methodological improvements have been introduced. New estimates of the non-observed economy have been developed using data from the 2016 Labour Force Survey (LFS), and trading margins have been updated based on 2016 survey data. The calculation of financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) has been enhanced in line with the 2008 SNA and BPM6. Improvements have also been made in estimating the output and intermediate consumption of the National Bank and other financial institutions, as well as in the government sector.

The Agency has implemented assessments for owner-occupied housing services and introduced double deflation in GDP calculations. The expenditure method of GDP has been refined using detailed data from the Household Budget Survey (HBS), and household expenditure on FISIM is now estimated in accordance with the 2008 SNA. Since 2017, quarterly GDP estimates have been produced using both the production and expenditure methods, in line with IMF SDDS requirements. Supply and Use Tables (SUT) and Input-Output Tables (IOT) have been compiled for the years 2016 to 2019.

Preliminary work has also been undertaken to improve data sources for implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). However, the Agency faces a shortage of qualified personnel, which limits the pace of implementation.

Currently, quarterly data are compiled and published as discrete quarters, although most source data are cumulative. It is recommended to explore how more primary data could be collected and processed on a discrete quarterly basis to improve quality.

The main challenges include a shortage of human resources, the need to improve data sources, transitioning to a discrete accounting system for quarterly data, updating HBS data in line with COICOP 2018, and further enhancing estimates of the non-observed economy.

Future development plans include the full implementation of the 2008 SNA, improved estimation of the non-observed economy using new data from the 2025 LFS, regular compilation of SUT and IOT, implementation of SEEA, development of thematic accounts (e.g., tourism), and a phased transition to the 2025 SNA.

To successfully implement these ambitious plans, activities should be carefully prioritized. Even if external funding is available for thematic accounts such as tourism, it may not be advisable to allocate current or potential internal resources to their production. Similarly, although there is strong user demand, producing monthly GDP estimates is a resource-intensive task (approximately four days per month). It should be considered whether readily available short-term indicators could serve similar analytical purposes. Users also expect time series with sufficient detail to be made publicly available through the open data portal in a more timely manner.

Government Finance Statistics

In the area of government finance statistics, the current classification of the state budget does not yet comply with the 2008 SNA. To achieve compliance, the Ministry of Finance must transition to the updated international standard GFS 2014. Following this transition, methodological guidance, staff training, and expert support will be required to enhance the statistical analysis of government finance data.

It has also been recognized that joint seminars involving specialists from the Ministry of Finance and the National Bank are necessary to improve the quality of data collected by local statistical offices and enterprise accountants. These efforts will contribute to the overall improvement of government finance statistics and their alignment with international standards.

Recommendations

50. Strengthen the national accounts department to meet upcoming high-priority tasks.

51. The Agency on Statistics should prioritize activities carefully; consider postponing the thematic tourism account.
52. The Agency should consider replacing monthly GDP with readily available short-term indicators.
53. The Agency should prioritize full implementation of the 2008 SNA, including financial accounts and missing items.
54. The Agency should enhance estimates of the non-observed economy using 2025 Labour Force Survey data.
55. The Agency should compile SUT and IOT regularly; use enterprise expenditure survey data to improve quality.
56. The Agency should improve estimates of owner-occupied housing using all available data sources.
57. The Agency should consider to include 2025 SNA planning in the 2026 work program; consider forming a dedicated working group.
58. The Ministry of Finance should transition to the 2014 Government Finance Statistics Manual (GFSM) framework as soon as the new law on State Budget is adopted.

Chapter 13: External Trade and Balance of Payments Statistics

External Trade Statistics

External trade statistics for goods and services is compiled by the Department of Trade and Services Statistics within the Agency on Statistics in line with international classifications and recommendations, in particular the common methodological framework developed in the Community of Independent States (CIS) and definitions outlined in United Nations manuals. Merchandise trade statistics is based mostly on data from customs declarations processed and aggregated at 10-digit Harmonised Standard (HS) level by the State Customs Service. The Agency does not currently have access to microdata in the form of primary customs declarations, but the Programme for the Development of Statistics for 2025 – 2030 foresees further integration between the Agency and the information systems of the State Customs Service. Data on exports and imports of electricity and gas are provided by the relevant companies in Tajikistan through the Agency’s regular reporting system. Estimates of non-declared imports and exports are not included.

The data for compiling statistics on external trade in services are obtained from all associations, enterprises and organisations engaged in foreign economic activity, regardless of ownership. Respondents submit the data through the Agency’s regular reporting system. The statistics are compiled in national currency and in US dollars, by partner country and by type of service.

Balance of Payments

The Balance of Payments is compiled by the National Bank of Tajikistan, based on data from their own reporting system, from the reporting system of the Agency on Statistics, from the Ministry of Finance and other government bodies. The banking reporting system covers two types of respondents: Banks, which report on their own transactions as well as on those of their clients, and other resident enterprises that have accounts abroad. The reporting system of the Agency on Statistics covers international trade in goods and services, mutual obligations of enterprises with foreign economic partners, foreign investment in Tajikistan and investment by Tajikistan residents abroad. Transactions are registered on the basis of accrual.

The Balance of Payments adheres to the recommendations in the IMF manuals (BPM5 and BPM6). It is compiled quarterly and released 90 days after the end of the reporting period.

Several challenges identified in the previous assessment (accrual principle versus cash principle, separation of general government and public enterprises, ownership principle versus residence principle) have been dealt with. Incomplete coverage of remittances remains a challenge, partly due to the multi-faceted nature of the transfers infrastructure.

Recommendations

59. The Agency on Statistics is encouraged to pursue further integration with the information system of the State Customs Service.
60. The Agency should continue the efforts to develop estimates of non-declared exports and imports.
61. The National Bank should continue to explore ways to improve the coverage of remittances in the Balance of Payments.
62. The National Bank should ensure that the Balance of Payments is compiled in line with the latest international recommendations, and prepare for the implementation of the 7th

edition of the Integrated Balance of Payments and International Investment Position
Manual (BPM7)

Chapter 14: Price statistics

The Prices and Tariffs Division of the Agency on Statistics consists of six staff. They compile the monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI), the monthly Producer Price Index (PPI), and specific price indices for construction, agriculture and goods transport. In addition, food prices for specific products are monitored regionally and published on a weekly basis. In the context of the International Comparison Program (ICP), the Division collects price data for processing at CISSTAT and ultimately at the ICP headquarters. Work on developing export and import price indices based on customs data has been initiated.

CPI prices are collected at local («rayon») level, mainly by price collectors visiting physical sales outlets. The outlets are sampled centrally. Initially, the data are processed locally and then submitted to the regional («oblast») offices of the Agency, which calculate an average price across all rayons within the oblast. These average prices are submitted to the central office of the Agency and weighted by the population of each oblast to arrive at the national average price for each item. The CPI calculation takes place in a worksheet-based production environment (MS Excel). Since the underlying microdata are not submitted, the central office of the Agency has no possibility to check for outliers in the underlying price observations. In order to ensure the quality of the price data, training is provided for staff in the local and regional offices.

The item list is the same for all regions. It consists of 112 food items, 336 other goods items, and 100 service items. The current item list was established in 2015 and has not been revised since then. Aggregation weights are based on the Household Budget Survey (HBS) and revised annually. The upcoming introduction of COICOP 2018 will require extensive cooperation with the HBS.

Price data for the compilation of the PPI are collected through the Agency's regular electronic reporting system. In line with the Agency's established practice, data are collected from all relevant enterprises rather than from a sample. The data validation and subsequent compilation take place entirely within the central office of the Agency. This also applies to the construction, agriculture and transport price indices. The development of a regional PPI at oblast level is under consideration.

Many countries have implemented transaction data from cash registers in the CPI production process. This contributes to both quality improvement and to reducing the response burden. It is highly recommended that the Agency starts exploring this option, along with data from the web and other non-traditional data sources.

Recommendations

63. The Agency on Statistics is encouraged to replace the current worksheet-based production environment with a more functional solution, in line with overall developments in data collection and processing within the Agency.
64. The Agency should review and update the CPI item sample to better reflect current consumer demand and to account for quality changes.
65. The Agency should start preparation for the implementation of COICOP 2018.
66. The Agency is encouraged to explore new data sources, like transaction data from cash registers.

67. In view of the resource situation, the Agency could reconsider the need to develop a regional PPI.

Chapter 15: Business Statistics

Overview

As agreed with the Agency on Statistics, this Global Assessment focuses on the statistical business register, transport statistics and energy statistics.

Other business statistics are collected by the Agency via compulsory monthly, quarterly and annual reporting by all registered companies, as well as samples of individual entrepreneurs. This is a well-established system, with good response rates, but the burden on businesses seems rather high compared to some other countries. Although there is no specific recommendation at this stage, in the longer term, the Agency may need to look at alternative data sources and/or increased use of sampling.

Statistical business register

The Register of Enterprises is managed by the Agency on Statistics. It is maintained using administrative data from the Tax Committee and the Ministry of Justice. Tax Committee data covers enterprises and individual entrepreneurs, and is shared via an on-line connection. Data from the Ministry of Justice covers public administrations but has not yet been digitalised.

The current register system is based in Microsoft Access, but a new database system is being developed, in connection with the introduction of a “Single Window” approach for business registration, where businesses can register once, and their information is shared with all relevant ministries and agencies, including the Agency on Statistics. This is a welcome development, which should improve the timeliness of registering new enterprises and identifying those that are not active.

The main units identified in the register are enterprises and local units / establishments. There are currently few enterprise groups in Tajikistan, and these are mainly in the finance sector. The presence of multi-national enterprises and groups is increasing, and there are several joint ventures between Tajik and foreign companies. This means that, over time, it is likely to become increasingly important to record enterprise groups, foreign ownership, and other types of business structures, in line with international recommendations.

The register holds addresses and geospatial codes to the level of local municipalities. This is sufficient for current uses, but as other statistical registers are developed (particularly the proposed population register), holding more detailed geographical location information will become important to facilitate linking information between registers. Ideally, this would take the form of x-y coordinates for each enterprise and local unit.

Transport statistics

The Agency on Statistics produces transport statistics based on a combination of direct reporting by transport enterprises, and administrative data from the Ministry of Transport. Areas covered include motor vehicles, air transport, public transport and roads. Statistics are produced in-line with recommendations on the transport sector from the Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT). Plans for the future include new indicators on electric cars and other new forms of transport, the use of GPS and traffic sensors to measure traffic flows, and estimates of greenhouse gas emissions by mode of transport. Training in advanced topics of transport statistics will be needed.

Energy statistics

The energy statistics compiled by the Agency on Statistics cover the production, transmission, distribution and consumption of electricity, which is mostly from hydro-electric plants. Electricity production is reported monthly by generators, and an energy balance has been developed in-line with the recommendations of the International Energy Agency. Future plans include the development of data for energy-related SDG indicators, as well as indicators on energy efficiency.

Recommendations

68. The Agency on Statistics and the Ministry of Justice should move towards electronic transfer of data on public enterprises for the statistical business register.
69. The Agency on Statistics is encouraged to study international best practices on how to include information on enterprise groups in the business register.
70. The Agency on Statistics should consider improving the level of geographic coding in the statistical business register, ideally by adding x-y coordinates.

Chapter 16: Population Census and Population Statistics

Population and Household Census

The census was generally conducted according to international standards in 2020 despite several challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The census unit was dissolved after the 2020 census and only one expert is still working for the Agency on Statistics where he currently works for another unit. Maintaining a permanent census unit does currently not work for financial and legal reasons. It is important to establish a permanent census unit in order to maintain expertise and serve users with access to census data. Census information is only available in PDF files on the website of the Agency on Statistics.

Geographic Information System (GIS) was used on paper but not electronically and could not be used for identifying buildings. The Agency needs to coordinate with the cadastre office to get exact geographical points for the 2030 census to have exact data points for buildings.

Use of electronic data collection through tablets (CAPI) was introduced for the 2020 census. However, part of the census data was collected on paper, particularly in rural areas. The reasons for that decision were a lack of internet connection, concerns about problems with the tablets and limited technical skills of interviewers.

Population Statistics

Current law assumes that parents register the birth of a child with the civil registration office, but the aim is for doctors to handle the registration rather than the parents. It is important for the Agency on Statistics to continue with this plan to improve the reliability of data on births and infant mortality.

The Agency has ambitions to establish a population register. There are certain procedures in place such as books on households and steps have been taken towards a register of addresses. However, tradition of using micro data is weak in the statistical system, which does not favour establishment of an advanced population register with coordinated individual identification numbers. Data is mainly transmitted from ministries and agencies to the Agency on an aggregated level, including data on migration, and experts from the Agency on Statistics seem to be satisfied with that.

Recommendations

71. The Agency on Statistics should give the Census needs a permanent place in the organizational structure to retaining knowledge, and for post and pre planning.
72. The Agency on Statistics should plan to move to a register-based census generated from an integrated system of administrative and statistical registers with a single personal and household identifier.
73. The Agency should use cadastral, geospatial and imagery data for the building and housing frame and to assist the enumerators if conducting a traditional or combined Census.
74. The Agency should consider to share more detailed Census results and in a user-friendly way on the website.
75. The Agency should continue with the planned registration of vital events by medical doctors, additional to the traditional civil registration by next of kin.

76. The Agency should include personal identifiers in the digitized household books and equivalent registers used in cities, as this could be the basis for the integrated system of administrative registers.
77. The Agency should seek international assistance to build a robust high quality integrated register that includes population, household and housing information.
78. The Agency should make more extensive use of electronic data collection for the 2030 census and take necessary steps as for technical training of data collectors.

Chapter 17: Labour Market Statistics

Labour market, income and employment statistics are based on data collected from various sources. Extensive information is collected through monthly, quarterly and annual forms. Key data is collected from enterprises on monthly basis (number of employees, salary, working hours, by type of employment). The database of the tax committee provides information on individual/independent workers while agricultural unit provides data on the number of workers in registered natural firms and farms and the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment provides further information on person looking for work and in employment programs. Enterprises have to submit all vacancies to them.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides more detailed information. The Agency on Statistics started using ILO definition for unemployment in 2016 and from 2025 onward, all the ILO methodology will be applied to the LFS. Unfortunately, the LFS is not conducted regularly, and the most recent survey was in 2016 (and the previous were conducted in 2004, 2009). To save costs, the Agency plans to combine the LFS with the Household Budget Survey. There are also plans to produce annual statistics based on registers.

The only sources for comprehensive and international comparable labour statistic is the Labour Force Survey (LFS). It is important to collect such data on at least an annual basis. It can also be used to improve the quality of registers by check quality and alignment with ILO definitions and to see how well the informal sector is covered.

Recommendations

79. The Agency on Statistics should conduct the Labour Force Survey on at least an annual basis (and include it in the annual work programme), and reconsider combining it with the HBS as it will worsen both surveys.
80. The Agency should improve the alignment of the employment and unemployment registers of the Ministry of Labour with ILO definitions.

Chapter 18: Other household surveys and statistics

- Household budget survey (HBS)
- Demographic and Health Statistics (DHS)
- Time Use Surveys (TUS)

The Household Budget Survey collects information on income, poverty as well as consumption and is one of the main sources for socio economic statistics. For consumption statistics which is the base for the CPI, the Agency on Statistics has abandoned the use of a diary and has moved over to traditional questionnaire with 7- and 30-days reference periods depending on the type of items being reported. Starting in 2020, with the help of World Bank experts, the HBS was improved. In 2008, sample size was increased to 3,000 households and World Bank now proposes to increase it to 4,000 households to further improve the coverage.

The Agency conducts several surveys with financial and expert assistance from the World Bank. The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) produces estimation on various health related issues, including domestic violence and other indicators on gender and for monitoring SDGs. Given the sensitivity of this and other topics, the interviewer is accompanied by a health specialist who gathers blood sample and measures blood pressure.

The time use survey is another project sponsored by the World Bank. Distribution of results is around 60% women and 40% men which is not the same as the population distribution between the sexes. The replacement procedure for dropouts might have caused this and also lead to additional biases by excluding relatively more respondents from sub-groups that are less willing to participate (for example households with two earners, wealthier one or low/illiterate headed households). It is recommended that the Agency on Statistics conducts a study of possible response bias of the time use survey results as well as for other surveys they conduct. They should consider the use of survey weights and other countering measures in case response bias is found in the data.

The Agency on Statistics provides micro data on their web site from the Time Use Survey (TUS), the DHS, HBS, and the surveys on persons living with disability and tourism. However, the research community does not seem to take much advantage of these data. Published results from the surveys are only available on pdf documents and not as web tables.

Recommendations

81. The Agency on Statistics should conduct an in-depth review coverage/improvement of civil registration system and use the outcome of the DHS to identify issues with the Civil Registration system.
82. The Agency on Statistics should study distribution of nonresponse between demographic or social groups for all surveys and ways to counter nonresponse bias if found in the data.

Chapter 19: Statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals

Data availability and monitoring

The monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country draws on multiple sources, including population and agriculture censuses, household surveys (DHS, LFS, HBS), administrative data, and statistical reporting forms. These diverse inputs provide a partial but fragmented picture of progress.

Out of the 234 global SDG indicators, 30 are not relevant in the national context, leaving 202 indicators to be monitored. However, only 36 indicators are currently available. Contributions vary across institutions: the Agency of Statistics provides data for 49 indicators, the Ministry of Health for 31, while the Ministry of Economy does not provide data, considering itself a data user rather than a producer. The last comprehensive analysis of SDG data availability was carried out in 2020, underlining the need for an updated review.

Institutional setting

Institutionally, an inter-agency group involving 21 agencies was established in 2019 to coordinate SDG work, although attempts to create a dedicated unit have not been successful. The country has participated in global initiatives, including membership in the IAEG-SDGs (2017–2019), and has linked its national strategy to Agenda 2030. Voluntary National Reviews were submitted in 2016 and 2023.

Dissemination

For dissemination, the national SDG portal¹ was established based on the Open SDG platform, supported by UNSD and DFID, and complemented by the SDG Tracker in cooperation with ESCAP. While the portal is updated regularly, challenges persist with the integration of SDMX. Although an SDMX webservice was introduced to automate data retrieval, recent changes in the data processing centre and new Eurostat versions have created technical bottlenecks, with limited support for implementation.

Currently, 131 indicators are published through the SDG Tracker, and efforts are underway to improve data quality and expand availability. Moving forward, priorities include organizing workshops for the inter-agency group, increasing disaggregated data through surveys such as the LFS, enhancing collaboration with custodian agencies, and building the statistical and technical capacity of the Agency of Statistics. Improved publication and communication of results will be critical to strengthening transparency and user trust in SDG monitoring.

Assessment

The assessment team was impressed by the progress achieved in SDG monitoring, despite the constraints of limited human, financial, and technical resources. This reflects the strong commitment of the Statistics Agency and their ability to maximize available capacities in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

¹ <https://tajstat.github.io/sdg-site-tajikistan/tg/>

At the same time, the issues expressed led the assessment team to propose the following recommendations:

Recommendations

83. The Agency on Statistics should lead and setup regular interagency group meetings to discuss and resolve issues and draft a roadmap based on the most relevant SDGs for national planning.
84. The Agency should ask local international organizations to provide more assistance to the NSS.
85. The Agency should consider to organise trainings (and seek the assistance of relevant international organisations) on GitHub and SDMX, allowing Statistics Agency to update the metadata and the relevant materials for Agenda 2030 monitoring.
86. The Agency should produce and share at the highest possible level a report on the current situation in monitoring SDGs with specific recommendations and responsible institutions.
87. The Agency should add to the work programme and structure, a dedicated SDG section responsible for evaluating, improving and communicating progress of national SDGs.

Annex: Long Term recommendations

Although many recommendations keep being valid for a longer period, recommendations in the Global Assessment Report focus on the short and middle term (about a 5-year window, until the next cycle). Due to the fast changes in Official Statistics, a longer view is not feasible. However, on the request of the Agency of Statistics, the expert team has formulated a series of recommendations that have a longer-term perspective:

- a. The Agency on Statistics should set in place a procedure to review statistical legislation every 5-7 years, to ensure it remains relevant and is being implemented as intended.
- b. The Agency on statistics should consolidate its leading role in coordinating development activities and initiatives related to official statistics and assume a more data stewardship role within the national data ecosystem.
- c. Educational material should be made available by the Agency of Statistics that can be used in the curriculum of statistical courses in the national education system.
- d. The agency should keep track of latest technologies for transmission of data from providers to the NSI in a safe and efficient manner.
- e. The Agency of Statistics should ensure adapting/updating the quality framework with the latest international recommendations and quality frameworks, including for multi-source statistics and for using privately held data and other external data sources.
- f. The Agency on Statistics should explore opportunities to become more involved in international activities to modernise official statistics.
- g. The Agency on Statistics should consider the implementation of the models and standards that complement the GSBPM, particularly:
 - i. The Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM) - for documenting and optimising information management and flows.
 - ii. The Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisations (GAMSO) - to support the optimisation of organisational structures
- h. The Agency is encouraged to take a proactive role in building trust-based relationships with private data holders, with a view to establishing mutually beneficial arrangement for data exchange.
- i. The Agency should develop an ethics framework to assess new data requests against duplication and other criteria that prevent excessive or unnecessary burden on respondents.
- j. The Agency should keep investing in using administrative, geospatial and other sources with a broad coverage that are timely and high frequency in nature to have more frequent and more granular data.
- k. The Agency should continuously monitor the needs of existing and new user groups and consult them with respect to their needs.

- l. A dedicated media team to support relevant news outlets in the ever-changing media landscape (including social media) should be setup by the Agency that can provide them with ready-made material suitable for the specific platforms in support of their official releases.
- m. The Agency is encouraged to look into the options for including owner-occupied housing in the CPI, in close alignment with National Accounts.
- n. The Agency on Statistics should look at alternative data sources and/or increased use of sampling for registered companies and individual entrepreneurs.
- o. The Agency should investigate international good practices and new data sources to improve the provision of sectoral business statistics, particularly in the priority areas of transport and energy. For example, on the impact of the increasing use of electric vehicles on both sectors.
- p. The Agency should aim for a fully register based census. This long-term objective should be kept in mind for development of registers, requirements placed on data providers and development and hiring of staff.
- q. The Agency should aim for monthly publication of labour market indicators, considering both the options of survey and register based data collection or a mix of both.
- r. The Agency of Statistics should aim to support their surveys as much as possible with register data to decrease cost and burden of respondents, for quality checks and modelling for nonresponse.
- s. The Agency should apply the most advanced methods in survey design, processing and quality checking. This objective needs to be taken into account when hiring and training staff.
- t. The Agency on Statistics should discuss lessons learnt from the measuring and monitoring SDGs and possible actions to be taken by the Agency on Statistics and at the national level, including for the post-2030 development agenda.
- u. The Agency should anticipate and support the post 2030 agenda and engage in the international, regional and national discussions on the post-2030 indicator framework.