

Explanatory Note to
Law No. 2 of 2011 on Official Statistics

1. General Census of Population, Housing and Establishment

1. To be conducted every ten years.
2. Council of Ministers shall issue a decision for conducting censuses.
3. Censuses may be conducted at intervals of less than 10 years, if there is an urgent necessity.

2. Data on security and military establishments

According to the provisions of this Law, it is compulsory for all establishments, excluding security and military ones, to provide QSA delegates with data, when collecting the required field data while conducting a census or survey.

3. Undertaking statistical operations by individuals, private establishments or government entities

A statistical operation implies data collection. Public and private sector entities as well as individuals, whether they are researchers, experts or specialists that want to undertake statistical and/or field operations, shall obtain prior consent from QSA.

Following conditions must be adhered to by those who wish to obtain QSA approval:

1. To provide QSA with the statistical framework and methodology.
2. Questionnaire's concepts, definitions and content.
3. Practices used when undertaking the statistical operation.
4. Wanting to do a sample survey, which is a statistical study of a sample of households or individuals designed to collect information on a specific

subject, such as labor force participation. A sample is used in order to provide relatively accurate results using less time and resources than a complete canvassing (census) would require.

4. Exchange of statistical data

QSA coordinates continuously with all entities to provide them with needed data and information. The following methods are used for exchanging data between QSA and entities, as well as individuals:

1. Inquiries received about data via post or e-mails, are replied to at the earliest opportunity.
2. International Cooperation Unit provides data users with the requested statistical data and information.
3. QSA website, www.qsa.gov.qa, contains the latest statistical data and information. Visitors can obtain the required data that satisfies their interests.
4. Qatar information exchanging website “QALM”, www.qix.gov.qa, is an online database containing diverse data from different ministries, dating back to 1980. Interested visitors can access the website and collect the needed data and information.
5. QSA established a link for the instant exchange of the latest data with different data-producing entities.

5. What is confidential data?

QSA is eager to protect private information in accordance with the applicable International Statistical Principles. According to this Law, confidential statistical data is any personal information related to individuals or establishments, and such data, including but not limited to: name, ID Number, address, housing, phone

numbers, and other household information, that is collected in an economic or social survey, shall not be used for any purpose other than statistical purposes. QSA shall not disclose any personal data when presenting survey results.

6. Statistical data and legal accountability

Having vast amounts of personal data and information does not authorize QSA to use them for lodging a case against owners of such data. This is what ensures the objectivity of QSA when using the obtained statistical information, and dealing with it. Thus according to this Law, QSA shall not use such data for the following cases:

1. Accruing financial burdens.
2. As evidence for conviction.
3. As a basis for any legal procedure, action or accountability.

7. Consultative statistical commission

This Law provides for establishing a consultative statistical commission, and clearly determines its responsibilities and terms of references. Strategic objectives of the commission's establishment lies in the following:

1. To have a high commission for overseeing and participating in running the national statistical process.
2. To contribute to the commission's membership growth by public and private sectors as well as the civil society, in order to ensure coordination and harmony between all statistics-related national entities.
3. To be in line with the international guidelines, recommendations, and best practices, as there are high commissions, national assemblies or centers as well as statistics authorities and offices in most countries for overseeing the statistical work.

8. Staff assigned to collect data

As QSA is keen to pick out the best persons capable for collecting information and data from the field, and according to this Law, QSA President shall issue a decision on data collection staff requirements. This is to ensure the quality and accuracy of the collected information.

9. Violations and sanctions

Lawmakers' wisdom of adopting sanctions against violators of this Law, lies in the following:

1. Eliminating the probability of someone committing practices that contradict this Law's provisions.
2. The desire to establish a high-quality, accurate, statistical system.
3. To impose sanctions that constitute a deterrent to law-violating practices.
4. Incurring damages for someone reporting incorrect data.

10. Judicial control

Some QSA staff shall carry out the judicial officer tasks assigned to them by the President in order to instantly determine and prove any breach of the Law provisions, as per the procedures established in this Law.