

Law No. 2 of 2011 on Official Statistics

We, Hamad Bin Khalifa ALThani, the Emir of the State of Qatar,

After having perused the Constitution,

The Decree-law No. 12 of 1980 for establishing the Central Statistics Authority ,
amended by the Law No. 2 of 1994,

The Decree-law No. 17 of 1999 on canceling the Central Statistics Authority,

The Emiri Decree No. 52 of 2007 on the organization of the Statistics Authority,

The law presented by the Cabinet,

And consulting the Shurah Council,

Issued the following Law:

Article 1

Upon the implementation of the provisions of this Law, the following words and expressions shall be designated by the associate meanings, unless the context is stipulated otherwise:

Authority	The Statistics Authority
President	President of the Authority
Statistical Data	The data related to social, economic, population, environmental and climatic aspects, work force, and everything related to the status of the society and its activities including the data related to the licenses, budgets, final accounts, reports, documents and records related to the status and activities.

Official Statistics	The statistical indicators and data issued by the Authority concerning the economic, social and environmental aspects.
Statistical Survey	The operations executed for gathering the data by different statistical means and techniques in a specific time.
General Population Census	The whole process of gathering, publishing and analyzing the social, demographic and economic data related to the total population and their characteristics in a specific time.
Governmental Bodies	Other ministries, governmental bodies, public authorities, institutions, and companies to which the government contributes with a rate of no less than 51%.
Private Institutions	The establishments owned by natural or legal persons.
Household	Group of individuals sharing an accommodation and food in a usual manner, whether they are blood relatives or not.
Source of Information	Any governmental authority, private establishment, household or individual that obtain or submits statistical data to the Authority according to the provisions of this Law.

Article 2

General Population Census shall be conducted at least once each ten (10) years, and whenever required, by a decision from the Council of Ministers.

Article 3

The president will issue a decision determining the dates, periods, programs and methods of conducting statistical censuses and surveys, publishing their results and determining the bodies which shall cooperate with the Authority.

Article 4

All governmental bodies should cooperate with the Authority, provide it with the requested data and follow the instructions for preparing the different figures, according to quality standards and technical requirements, on the dates set by the Authority. Data pertaining to military and security authorities are excluded.

Moreover, private establishments, households and individuals shall provide representatives of the Authority with all the requested data. Such reported data shall be correct.

Article 5

Governmental bodies, private establishments, and individuals may not perform any data collection operations related to residential units,

households, individuals or establishments except after obtaining the prior approval of the Authority.

Furthermore, those authorities, establishments and individuals shall comply with the Authority's recommendations concerning the research methodology in terms of the statistical frame, the sampling method, the concepts of the survey questionnaire's content and the applications.

Article 6

The exchange of statistical data shall be done after coordination between the Authority and the other bodies.

Article 7

All data related to the names and identities of establishments and individuals shall be confidential, and shall not be disclosed to other than those authorized to peruse them, except after obtaining the prior written approval from the concerned person. It also may not be used for purposes other than statistics.

The authorities taking part in gathering statistical data or information may exchange data with each other. Such exchange is subject to maintaining the confidentiality of statistical data.

Article 8

It is impermissible to use any statistical data or refer to it in accruing any financial burden on those who submit it. Additionally, it shall not be used as an evidence for conviction or a basis for any legal procedure, action or accountability; however, it is permissible to use it as evidence of breaching the provisions of this Law, against those who provide incorrect information.

Article 9

The Authority may not publish any data concerning the source of information. It shall take necessary measures to prevent identifying the source of information's identities, either directly or indirectly.

Article 10

A statistics committee shall be established in the Authority. It shall be responsible for the following:

1. Express its opinion and provide counseling concerning all the statistical operations.
2. Propose priorities for satisfying users' needs for data.
3. Propose annual statistical plans and programs needed.
4. Provide required support for promotion of the statistical work.

A decision for establishing the committee and organizing its works, shall be issued by the Cabinet according to the president's proposition.

Article 11

The president will issue a decision determining the conditions with which the employees performing statistical operations shall comply, and their competences as well as their duties. This decision shall not become effective until it has been approved by the Cabinet.

Article 12

With no prejudice to any more severe penalty stipulated in another law, any employee of the Authority or of those authorized to perform statistical operation, who discloses or uses directly or indirectly any statistical data they have obtained from their work, trade and industrial secrets, or other kind of secrets, for the purpose of benefiting themselves or others or for harming others, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than a year and/or a fine of not more than QR20,000.

Article 13

Whoever does any of the following shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 6 months and/or a fine of not more than QR10,000:

1. Whoever deliberately, through themselves or other ones, keeps any person authorized to execute any obligation imposed by this Law from performing their job.
2. Whoever disseminates deliberately or assists in disseminating invalid information related to statistics, censuses or statistical surveys.

3. Whoever, in violation of the provisions of this Law, conducts censuses or participates in doing so.
4. Whoever obtains or attempts to obtain confidential data for statistical purposes without being legally authorized to do so.
5. Whoever damages or conceals documents or records, including statistical data or information they have that hinders or influences the statistical operations.
6. Whoever obtains statistical data in violation of the provisions of this Law.
7. Whoever is not authorized but assumes to act in an official capacity like a person authorized to perform census or survey work.

Article 14

Whoever does any of the following shall be punished by a fine of not more than QR5,000:

1. Whoever, in violation of the provisions of this Law, gives wrong answers to questions related to the requested data that is defined by this Law, or attempts to provide incorrect or ambiguous information.
2. Whoever refuses to provide information, fill out any necessary forms or questionnaires, or return them upon request without an acceptable excuse.
3. Whoever prevents the persons authorized by the Authority from accessing documents or records kept with any governmental authority

or private establishment except that containing law enforcement information.

Article 15

The Public Prosecutor, in agreement with the President, shall issue a decision on empowering some employees with a number of duties of judicial officers, such as confiscation of materials that prove violations of the provisions of this Law and the decisions executing it.

These employees have a right to enter private establishments during official working hours, and examine all their documents in order to check the validity of the provided statistical data.

Article 16

The provisions of this Law shall not be applied to the statistical processes that are related to military and security affairs.

Article 17

The President shall issue the necessary decisions for executing the provisions of this Law.

Article 18

The Decree-law No. 12 of 1980 and 17 of 1999 as well as all legislative texts that contradict with the provisions of this Law shall be annulled.

Article 19

All competent authorities, each within their jurisdiction, shall execute this Law and publish it in the official gazette.

Hamad Bin Khalifa ALThani
Emir of the State of Qatar

Issued in the Emiri Diwan,
on the date: 17/03/1432 AH,
corresponding to: 20/02/2011 AD.