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**Self-assessment questionnaire on the implementation of the  
OECD Council Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice**

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**Argentina**

**Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC)**

**August 2018**

**Section 1: Put in place a clear legal and institutional framework for official statistics which should in particular provide:**

- i) details as to the organisation of the NSS, the legal status and role of the NSO, as well as the legal status, functions, relationship, rights and responsibilities of other institutions within the NSS.**
- ii) a clear mandate for institutions of the NSS to collect data for statistical purposes.**

Questions related to section 1:

1.1. Is there a comprehensive and coherent statistical legislation periodically revised and amended? The statistical legislation defines the nature of official statistics; the legal framework for the compilation, production and dissemination of official statistics; the legal status, role in the system, functions, relationship, rights and responsibilities of institutions within the NSS; the mandate for data collection; the coverage of statistical activities; and the role, functions and composition of the Statistical Council. The statistical legislation also regulates the organisation of the NSS; the independence of the NSO and its head; the relationship between the producers of statistics and respondents; the access to administrative records and their use for statistical purposes; the dissemination policy; the legal infrastructure for ensuring the confidentiality and the penalties in case of breach of confidentiality; budget issues; the availability of sufficient resources for financing statistical programmes, the international statistical co-operation, and the co-ordination of statistical activities within the country's statistical system.

*1.1. The organic law that operationalises and regulates the National Statistical System throughout the Argentine territory is Law 17622, passed in January 1968. It had the virtue of uniting in a single regulatory body, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC), the responsibility of producing and disseminating the official statistics and censuses which, until then, were produced by different state bodies that acted according to their own criteria. Decree 3110/70 regulates the provisions of Law 17622 and can be amended, according to constitutional provisions, by decision of the Executive Power.*

*The NSS is integrated (Section 4, Law 17622) by INDEC, the central statistical bodies (statistical services of public bodies, centralised and decentralised: for example, ministries, secretariats of state, regulatory bodies, state companies and corporations) and the peripheral statistical bodies (statistical services of provincial and municipal public bodies, centralised and decentralised).*

*It is useful to clarify that, in Argentine Public Law, centralised bodies are those which integrate the structure of a national, provincial or municipal state body. By contrast, decentralised bodies are those which, although they are part of the national, provincial or municipal jurisdiction, have been granted functional autonomy and possess legal status (ability to contractually relate to third parties), their own assets, a working statute, and an administrative body which is independent and can only be removed under certain conditions provided by the Law (not by decision of a minister or the Executive Power).*

*Additionally, a deconcentrated body is a hybrid between both types of entities, which has no legal status, meaning that the State grants its powers. Deconcentrated bodies also have the capacity of acquiring rights and contracting obligations. Both Law 17622 and Decree 3110 establish the regulated power of INDEC as a deconcentrated body: the specific functions of the body are pre-established in the regulation.*

*It is worth noting that, in order to adapt the organisation to current requirements, the organic and functional structure of INDEC was revised in 2017. To this end, the organisation chart of the Institute was modified by Administrative Decision 305/2017 of the Chief of Cabinet of Ministers. Among the changes to the organic and functional structure of INDEC, we may mention: a) creation of the Management Directorate (with the specific aim of supervising the supporting areas), b) raising the hierarchy of the areas of statistical methodology, coordination of the National Statistical System and*

*dissemination to National Directorates (they were previously simple directorates), and c) creation of six Regional Offices to strengthen INDEC's action within the National Statistical System (one for each statistical region in Argentina: Greater Buenos Aires, Pampas, Cuyo, North-east, North-west and Patagonia).*

- 1.2. Have the statistical authorities a clear mandate for data collection and the authority to compel respondents to comply with data requests (e.g. the Population and Housing Census, Agricultural Census, surveys, administrative sources<sup>1</sup>, etc.)? In the case of Population and Housing Census, is the obligation for citizens to participate and to respond to the questionnaires legally binding and established by law?

*1.2 It must be kept in mind that, according to its Constitutional Provisions, the Republic of Argentina is structured as a federal state (Art 1 of the National Constitution), and this requires the establishment of cooperation methods between the National State and the Provincial and Municipal Governments. Law 17622 has designed such interjurisdictional collaboration method, in which INDEC was granted the power of head of the NSS, with the aims of (a) unifying the guidance and exerting higher management of all official statistical activities of the country, and (b) structuring, through articulation and coordination, the national, provincial and municipal statistical services based on the principle of normative centralisation and executive decentralisation. This principle does not prevent INDEC from direct production of statistics and censuses in case of absence of the provincial government. In such cases, the duty of guaranteeing the public service it is responsible for authorises the Institute to dispose of such means as necessary for that end. Section 1 of Decree 3110/70 (a regulatory provision to Law 17622) established the duty of all members of the NSS to perform the tasks assigned to them by INDEC in statistical and census matters.*

*In addition to the above mentioned, Law 17622 (Section 5) enumerates the substantial functions of INDEC: (a) planning, promoting and coordinating the duties of the bodies that compose the National Statistical System; (b) drafting the annual programme for national statistics and censuses, with the corresponding budget per programme, taking into account the requirements of other public or private entities; (c) establishing the methodological rules and the execution programs of the statistics included in the annual programme; (d) distributing, among the entities of the National Statistical System, the duties set out in the annual programme for national statistics and censuses, as well as the funds required for their performance, when applicable; (e) promoting the creation of new statistical services throughout Argentina; (f) promoting the proper dissemination of all the statistical information; (g) conducting methodological and statistical research; (h) concluding agreements of statistical nature with public and private entities and promoting them among foreign and international bodies; (i) preparing such statistics as it deems convenient, without affecting the executive decentralisation principle.*

*The central and peripheral services of the NSS are subject to INDEC regulation for the fulfilment of activities and must present annual budget plans for the planned statistical tasks.*

*The Law establishes the obligation of providing any information required for censuses and statistical evaluations to INDEC and the central and peripheral bodies of the NSS. Public or private entities and legal persons of whom INDEC requires information or data for statistical purposes are bound to provide them. Failure to do so may result in monetary penalties.*

*Any person who is required to carry out statistical or census tasks, as a public burden, shall be bound to performing such duties. Failure to do so may cause the application of the sanctions established in section 239 of Argentina's Criminal Code (monetary fine and disqualification from one month to a year, in the case of public officials).*

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<sup>1</sup> Administrative sources refers to the organisational unit responsible for implementing an administrative regulation (or group of regulations), for which the corresponding record of units and the transactions are viewed as a source of statistical data.

1.3. Are the statistical Authorities required by law to conduct a Census of Population and Housing and a Census at least every ten years?

*1.3. According to the purposes and responsibilities of INDEC (Sections 3 and 5, Law 17622), Decree 3110/70 (regulatory to Law 17622) has established a basic calendar for the development of substantial censuses (Section 7, Decree 3110/70), with due regard to the calendars established by INDEC for census samples and specific statistics (Section 8, Decree 3110/70). To such end, the Decree mentioned above clearly states this obligation of the authorities of all national, provincial and local bodies, the armed forces and the security forces to provide their assistance in census surveying, making available their staff, premises, fixtures, vehicles and all other elements that INDEC may require for census purposes (Section 9, Decree 3110/70).*

1.4. Are statistical laws and regulations publicly available?

*1.4. Yes, although the Argentine legal system does not recognise ignorance of the Law as a justification for non-compliance, except in the cases which are legally established (Section 8 of the National Civil and Commercial Code). The Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic -structured as a National Directorate which reports to the Legal and Technical Secretariat of the Presidential Office- publishes laws sanctioned by the National Congress and administrative Acts decreed by the National Executive Power. These publications are available at [www.boletinoficial.gob.ar](http://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar). It is useful to bear in mind that national laws in Argentina enter into force eight days after their publication in the Official Bulletin, or at the date specified within the Law (Section 5, National Civil and Commercial Code).*

*Additionally, the INDEC website (<http://www.indec.gob.ar/>) contains a variety of information and data, available in English and Spanish, including the current regulation that steers it. Of course, access to the site is free.*

**Section 2. Ensure professional independence of National Statistical Authorities. To this end, OECD Members and non-Members adhering to this recommendation should ensure that the National Statistical Authorities:**

- iii) are professionally independent from other policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators, considering that professional independence of the producers of official statistics is essential for the production and the dissemination of objective statistics.**
- iv) have the exclusive authority, as part of their professional independence, to decide on statistical methods and dissemination.**
- v) are protected, through the inclusion of explicit provisions in statistics legislation or regulation, from political and other interference in developing, compiling and disseminating official statistics.**

Questions related to section 2:

2.1. Is the professional independence of the Statistical Authorities from other policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators in compiling and disseminating official statistics, explicitly guaranteed by law and ensured in practice by all entities of the NSS?

*2.1. The National Statistical System, designed by Law 17622 and its regulatory provision, Decree 3110/70, with INDEC as regulatory and coordinating body, is legally empowered to act with independent technical criteria within the area of its functional competence, since no authority has the legal power to order or instruct the NSS on how to exert its competence.*

2.2. Have the Head of the NSO, and where appropriate, the heads of other National Statistical Authorities, responsibility for ensuring that statistics are developed, produced and disseminated in an independent manner?

*2.2. The mentioned legislation, in mentioning the functions of INDEC and establishing the specific responsibilities of its highest authority, provides tools aimed at guaranteeing professionalism and decision-making power. In this respect, it should be emphasised that Law 17622 grants the Institute, among other powers, the following: planning, promoting and coordinating the duties of the bodies that compose the National Statistical System; drafting the annual programme for national statistics and censuses; establishing the methodological rules and the execution programmes of the statistics included in the annual programme; distributing, among the entities of the National Statistical System, the duties set out in the annual programme for national statistics and censuses, as well as the funds required for their performance, when applicable; promoting the creation of new statistical services throughout Argentina; promoting the proper dissemination of all the statistical information to the ministries, commanders-in-chief of the armed forces, state secretariats, provincial and local governments, public and private organisations, and the population at large; conducting methodological and statistical research aimed at increasing the technical and scientific level of the National Statistical System; concluding agreements of statistical nature with public and private entities and promoting them among foreign and international bodies; conducting statistical and technical training courses with the collaboration of international, national and private bodies and granting training fellowships to the staff in order to enhance the technical and scientific level of the National Statistical System; preparing such statistics as it deems convenient, without affecting the executive decentralisation principle. There is even an unusually open power to perform any other duty that contributes to the attainment of the purposes established in section 3 (Section 5, Law 17622).*

2.3. Have the Head of the NSO, and where appropriate, the Heads of other National Statistical Authorities, the sole responsibility for deciding on statistical methods, standard and procedures, and on content and timing of statistical releases? Is it explicitly provided by law?

*2.3. The legal framework vests upon the Director-General of INDEC the following duties:*

*Comply with and enforce Law 17622, its regulatory provisions and INDEC's internal rules; be in charge of INDEC'S administrative and technical direction; be the legal representative for INDEC in all contracts and acts; cause the national, provincial and local authorities to take such steps as required to improve and extend their statistical services and the provision of funds to ensure the normal fulfilment of their responsibilities; preside over the juries in exam and/or qualification-based competitive processes; cause that technical staff be hired and promoted, that administrative and cleaning/maintenance staff be hired, that Argentine or foreign experts be hired to conduct studies, research or statistical tasks, that staff for temporary, special or extraordinary tasks be hired, establishing the terms and conditions of their employment and pay as per the administrative provisions in force; impose sanctions on those who violate Law 17622 and its regulatory provisions; establish the plan of non-periodic publications as per the Annual Programme for Statistics and Censuses (Section 28, Regulatory Decree 3110/70).*

*It is also noteworthy that the current government Administration has raised the hierarchy of the Director-General of INDEC, granting him the status of Secretary of State (Section 8, Decree 181/15).*

*However, there are still some limitations that must be overcome in the near future:*

*INDEC is within the structure of the Centralised Administration of the National Government, and functions as a deconcentrated entity within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Treasury. This means that it does not have functional and budgetary autonomy, which it can only acquire through a Law that decentralises such structure and recognises its autarchy, i.e. its separate legal personality, and therefore, its aptitude to acquire rights and contract obligations against third parties and to independently administer its budget.*

*In accordance with Law 17622, on the duties to plan, promote and coordinate the tasks of the bodies of the NSS, INDEC -by means of Resolution 141/2018- has set its [2018-2020 Work Programme](#). The Programme includes a set of projects for the mentioned period which describes INDEC's current stage of consolidation, strengthening and development, and is organised in six strategic pillars (institutional transformation, strengthening of statistical capacity, coordination of the National Statistical System, boosting dissemination and friendly access to statistics, development of international relations, and publication of technical reports related to main indicators).*

2.4. Have the Head of the NSO, and where appropriate, the Heads of other National Statistical Authorities, sufficiently high hierarchical standing to ensure senior level access to policy authorities and administrative public bodies? Are they of the highest professional calibre?

*2.4. As mentioned above, INDEC is a deconcentrated body which functions within the jurisdiction of the National Ministry of Treasury. The current Government has raised the hierarchy of the Director-General of the Institute to Secretary of State and emphasised the importance of guaranteeing an improvement in the production and dissemination of public statistics that respond sufficiently, promptly and reliably to the increasing demands of the State and society as a whole, within the framework of international best practice. In this respect, there is a clear political will to restore the value of INDEC and the National Statistical System after years of public discredit, which is reflected, among other matters, in the direct access to decision-making bodies and officials of the highest level of the national public Administration. However, the normative reforms that are being drafted within INDEC with the aim of achieving autonomy are aimed towards the institutionalisation of such role and the definite establishment of the hierarchical role of its authorities.*

2.5. Is the appointment of the Heads of the NSO and, where appropriate, the Heads of other National Statistical Authorities, based on professional competence only? Are the reasons on the basis of which the incumbency can be terminated specified in the legal framework? These cannot include reasons compromising professional or scientific independence.

*2.5. Regulatory Decree 3110/70 establishes that INDEC's technical staff shall only be appointed after completing an examination and/or qualification-based competitive process before a jury to be presided over by the Director-General and composed of two officers of INDEC appointed by the Director-General (Section 30 of regulatory Decree 3110/70); accentuating the rigorousness by stating that managerial and technical positions shall be filled by holders of degrees awarded by Argentine universities who have a solid background in the statistical field.*

*It is worth mentioning the salient features of the work regime to which INDEC staff is subject: the work regulation which is applicable to civil servants to the State is established in the Public Employment Regime. Law 25164 establishes a regulatory framework for national public servants. However, one must not lose sight of the fact that, as we indicated in the answers to Section 1, the constitutionally adopted federal system for the structure of the country determines that, in matters of Public and Administrative Law, the provinces sanction their own laws on public employment. The common provision for all public employment regimes is to guarantee the stability of public employment, as stated by Section 14 bis of the National Constitution.*

*Not all public employees have this stability. In order to have this guarantee, the employee must have entered into public functions through an examination and/or qualification-based competitive process and after eighty days of his or her appointment. From that point on, the employee can only be removed following just and proven cause or by restructuring or dissolution of the body (in such case there is a severance pay similar to that established in the Employment Contract Law, Section 11, Law 25164) and is entitled to administrative career. In cases in which the appointing body or entity disregards or violates the guarantee of stability, the employee has a right to request the invalidity of the dismissal, a reinstatement and payment of missed salaries.*

*Whoever does not enter employment through the previously mentioned procedure does not have guarantee of stability. Such is the case of personnel hired to cover temporary needs, during a fixed*

*period, who can perform different tasks to those performed by the stable personnel. These contracts may be cancelled before their maturity date without requirement of reasons.*

*The cabinet staff, who advise or assist the appointed political officials in matters of administration, are in a similar situation when the term of the officials ends by resignation of the appointing authority or before the maturity date (All these situations are considered in Law 25164.)*

*Anyone hired through services or construction contracts are not included in the Public Employment Regime regulated by Law 25164. These cases are ruled by the National Civil and Commercial Code.*

*The collective bargaining regime (collective work agreements) for the public sector is determined by Law 24185, year 1992.*

*The representation of public employees in matters of bargaining their labour relationships with the Public Administration, is done by the trade unions, guilds with legal status and national operation.*

2.6. Does national legislation provide clear and detailed description of the procedure for appointment and dismissal of the Head of the NSO? Is a list of conditions under which the Head of the NSO can be dismissed provided for by law?

*2.6. This answer is closely linked to section 2.3. In this matter, we emphasise that, to this date and since its creation, the highest authority of INDEC (the Director-General) can be appointed and removed by decision of the Executive Power for any reason. The current Director-General has been appointed by means of Decree 181/15.*

2.7. Is a clear reporting system for the Head of the NSO provided by law in order to ensure and reinforce its technical independence?

*2.7. Law 17622 clearly sets forth the criteria for avoiding political interference in the decisions of the authorities of the Institute, although there is no specific protocol for this matter.*

2.8. Are the statistical work programmes published and periodic reports describe progress made?

*2.8. Yes.*

2.9. Are statistical releases clearly distinguished and issued separately from political/policy statements?

*2.9. Yes.*

2.10. Do the NSO and where appropriate, other National Statistical Authorities, comment publicly on statistical issues, including criticisms and misuses of statistics as far as considered suitable?

*2.10. Public statements of INDEC are done exclusively through press releases and methodological documentation, following previously established dissemination policies. Additional comments are only issued when required by other powers of the State, within the framework of the management reports of the Chief of Cabinet of Ministers before National Congress, or in compliance with the access to public information regulation. In all cases, reference is made to technical reports or methodological documentation, without subjective assessments.*

2.11. Are data collection, data production and release of information ensured without formal approval from third parties?

*2.11. Yes. No third-party approval is required for the publication of official statistics.*

2.12. Is there a Statistical Council including external experts to advise the Heads of the National Statistical Authorities on strategic statistical issues? What is the nature of the Statistical Council in terms of oversight or advice, membership, chair, frequency of meetings, and reporting arrangements to government? Is this nature provided by law?

2.12. There are currently no advisory councils.

**Section 3. Ensure adequacy of human financial and technical resources available to the National Statistical Authorities for the production and dissemination of official statistics. To this end, OECD Members and non-Members adhering to this recommendation should ensure that the resources are:**

- i) sufficient to allow National Statistical Authorities to meet their commitment to quality, and to meet professional standards thereby fulfilling their role as providers of reliable, relevant and accessible data for national and international use;**
- ii) adequate to produce a minimum core set of data, to be defined nationally or internationally, to monitor the economy, society and the environment.**

*Questions related to section 3:*

3.1. Do the National Statistical Authorities have sufficient funding for statistical production and dissemination, to support staff training, to develop computing resources, and to implement innovation? Are resources adequate in magnitude and in quality to meet statistical needs?

*3.1 The Republic of Argentina allocates the resources for INDEC's activities on an annual basis in the National Budget. As of the 2017 period, the budget development process has been modified: it begins in May, when the financing needs for capital expenditure (investment in fixed assets) are presented.*

*Subsequently, and before the final draft is presented to Congress for its approval in September, the Undersecretariat of Budget of the Nation submits the "budget ceiling", which operates as credit limit, for approval or modification request of the corresponding entities.*

*The budget ceiling applies both to capital expenditure (investment) and to current expenditure.*

*Once the National Budget is approved, an administrative act is issued at the beginning of each year to enable its execution. For the purposes of budgetary execution, the National Budget Office allocates quarterly shares that act as expenditure limits.*

*Until and including 2016, the only sources of funding for INDEC were from the National Treasury (F11) and budgetary resources were provided by other national State bodies (FF13). The administrative process for credit financing from international organisations was completed in 2017 (FF22).*

*Since the executive orders for the approval of the FONPLATA loan (Decree 716, 11 September 2017) and the IDB loan (Decree 1121, 29 December 2017) were signed in late 2017, the operation of both international credits began in 2018.*

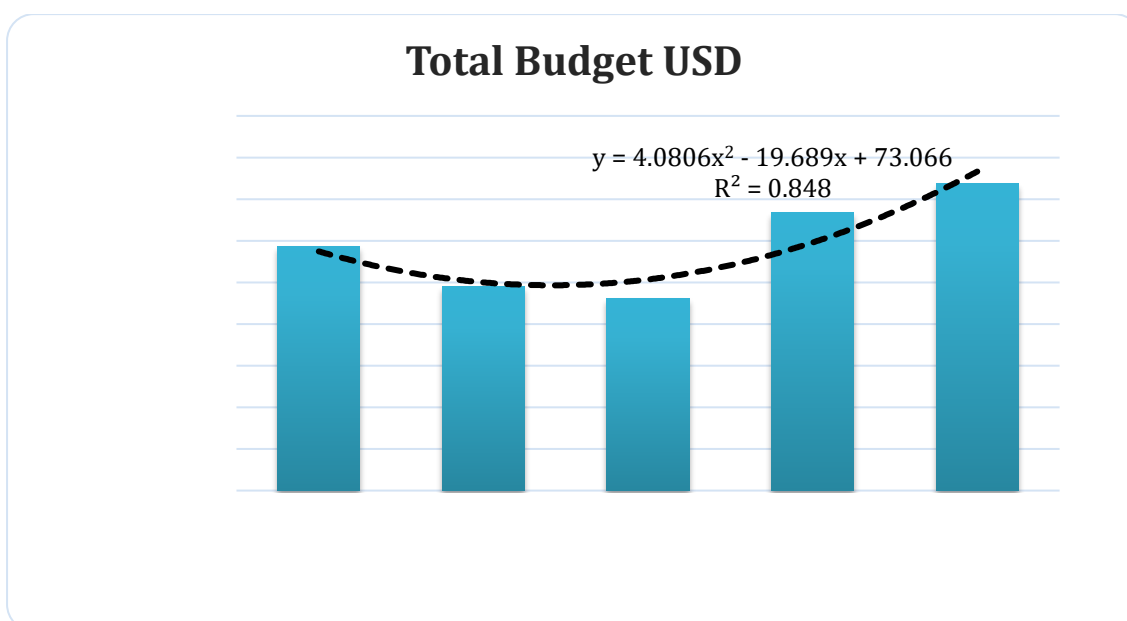
*It is worth noting that, until 2016, the budget was limited to covering the basic functioning needs, with no consideration for investment in infrastructure, pre-census tasks, special projects or new statistical products. As of the 2017 budget, there is a significant increase in items intended for capital expenditure: 412%, comparing 2017 (USD 3.3 M) to 2016 (USD 0.65 M). The following includes the main groups of capital expenditure for 2017.*



| <b>2017 Investment</b>         | <b>USD M</b>  | <b>%</b>    |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| <i>IT Equipment</i>            | <i>1.42 M</i> | <i>43%</i>  |
| <i>IT Licences</i>             | <i>0.63 M</i> | <i>19%</i>  |
| <i>Building Infrastructure</i> | <i>0.48 M</i> | <i>15%</i>  |
| <i>Vehicles</i>                | <i>0.36 M</i> | <i>11%</i>  |
| <i>Furniture</i>               | <i>0.28 M</i> | <i>8%</i>   |
| <i>Safety Equipment</i>        | <i>0.03 M</i> | <i>1%</i>   |
| <i>Others</i>                  | <i>0.11 M</i> | <i>3%</i>   |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>3.30 M</b> | <b>100%</b> |

#### *Developments of 2018*

*As previously mentioned, the budget for 2018 included credit financing from international organisations (FF22). Additionally, there was an inclusion of the items necessary for the National Agricultural Census, the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (ENGHo 2017-2018), paired with the necessary programmes for their execution. Items for investment in capital expenditure have been set at 3.1M. Although slightly lower than 2017, it allows a steady pace for investment. The following includes the evolution of budgetary provision during the previous years and the distribution for the 2018 period.*



Exchange rate for 2018: \$24.5

|               |               |             |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>Budget</b> | <b>72.3 M</b> | <b>100%</b> |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|

*National Treasury*      **58.5 M**      **81%**

*IDB & FONPLATA*      **9.2 M**      **13%**

*Specific Resources*      **4.6 M**      **6%**

**Expenditure**

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*Staff & Employees (HR)*      **31.3 M**      **43%**

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*NSS & Professional Services*      **32.0 M**      **44%**

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*Consumer Goods*      **0.8 M**      **1%**

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*Services*      **5.2 M**      **7%**

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*Capital investment -Property, Plant, and Equipment -(PP&E)*      **3.1 M**      **4%**

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**72.3 M**      **100%**

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| <i>Expenditure by Statistical Operation</i>                                  | <i>USD M</i>  | <i>%</i> |
|--|---------------|----------|
| <i>Regular Statistical Operations</i>  | <b>43.0 M</b> | 60%      |
| <i>National Agricultural Census</i>  | <b>12.4 M</b> | 17%      |
| <i>IDB</i>   | <b>5.6 M</b>  | 8%       |
| <i>Specific Statistical Operations</i>                                       | <b>4.6 M</b>  | 6%       |
| <i>FONPLATA (National Survey of Household Expenditure and Income (Engho)</i> | <b>3.6 M</b>  | 5%       |
| <i>Investment</i>  | <b>3.1 M</b>  | 4%       |
|  | <b>72.3 M</b> |          |

*The current budget for 2018 considers 87% for personnel costs, including both INDEC staff and professional services by means of agreements with the Provincial Statistics Offices of the NSS. This means that direct and indirect human resources are the main budgetary outlay.*

*Regarding the human resources of the Institute, in March 2018, the staff size was of 1632 employees, out of which 32.4% were permanent staff, 48.3% were hired through the Law of Regulation of National Employment (Law 25164, Section 9) and 19.3% were hired through the National University of Buenos Aires (UBA) and National University of La Matanza (UNLaM, in its Spanish acronym). In December 2015, when the current administration began, the staff size was of 1698 employees. This meant a reduction of approximately 4% of the staff between December 2015 and March 2018, and a budgetary improvement, even though new personnel with broader technical capacities was hired.*

*In terms of the profiles of the INDEC staff, 36% are between 50 and 64 years of age, 28% between 40 and 49, 19% between 30 and 39, 11% between 18 and 29, and 6% are older than 65; 55% are women and 45% are men; 80% are office staff and 20% are field staff, which can be explained by the executive decentralisation of fieldwork in the provinces. In terms of level of education, 32% are university graduates, 10% have tertiary education and 5% have postgraduate degrees, while 48% have completed secondary education and 5% have achieved primary education.*

*In light of this situation, INDEC has promoted the professionalisation of its human resources as an institutional policy. As a first step, hiring personnel by means of UBA and UNLaM, which allows more flexibility in the contract modality. It is worth mentioning that, until December 2015, 30% of staff were professionals, while in March 2018 professionally educated personnel accounted for 47% of the total, which sets a positive tendency, since 80% of hired staff during this period are professionals.*

*One of the greatest challenges, especially in the technical areas, has been the incorporation of highly qualified professionals. The salary and contract conditions resulting from the public employment regime that INDEC must follow as a deconcentrated body are insufficient to attract professionals who are in better conditions in the private sector.*

3.2. Is the adequacy of resources regularly monitored?

3.2. According to Administrative Decision 305/2017, which established the new organisation structure of INDEC, the General Directorate of Administration and Operations is to "design, program and

*execute the activities linked to the economic, financial, asset and operational logistics management, supporting all permanent or periodic activities of the Institute" and "prepare the annual expenditure and revenue budget, and program corresponding credit and budget shares"*

*Additionally, Resolution 426/2017 of the Ministry of Treasury establishes that the Directorate of Budget Programming and Control shall:*

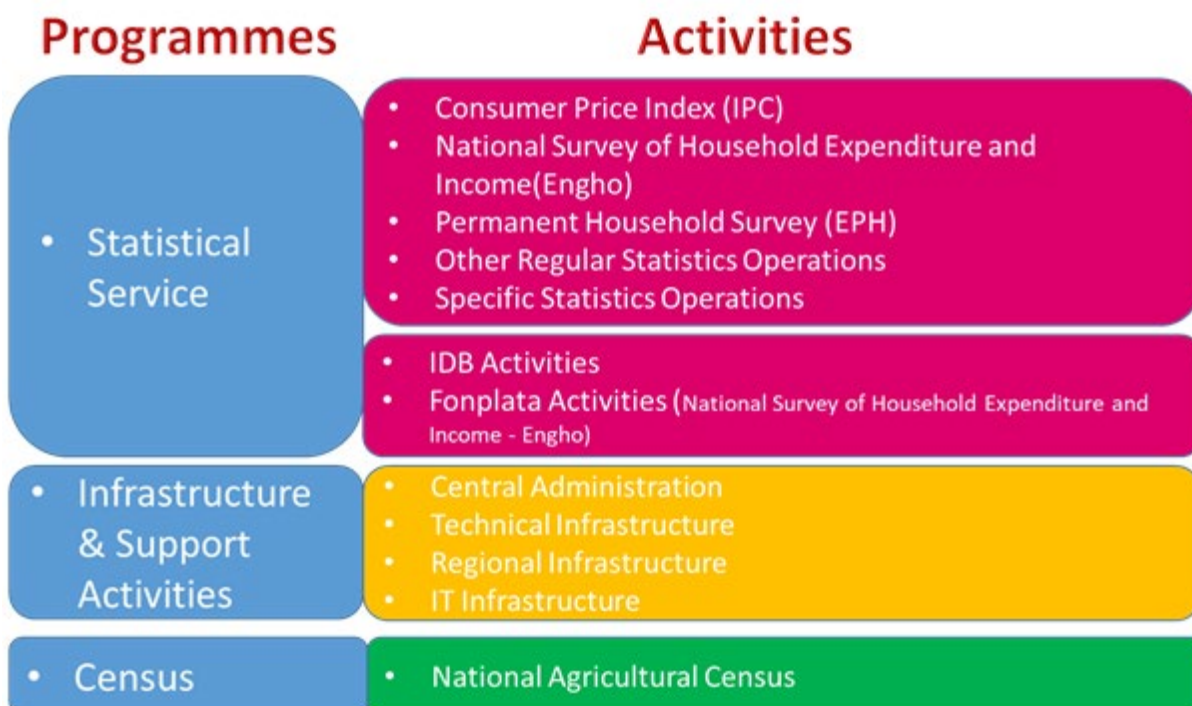
- 1.-Prepare the annual draft expenditure and revenue budget for the Institute and its modifications.*
- 2.- Monitor the execution of the budget, analysing and informing on its progress.*
- 3.- Develop accounting records, balances, settlements, and accounts of inflows and outflows.*
- 4.- Update the management information system on programming and budget execution.*
- 5.- Propose budgets aimed at financing INDEC regional offices and monitor their execution.*

3.3. Are the scope, detail and costs of statistics commensurate with needs?

*3.3. In matters of budgetary execution for 2016-2018, the technical areas have had the necessary resources to develop their tasks in public statistics. Additionally, there have been budgetary resources for investment in capital expenditure, as well as the large operations of the Institute, such as the National Household Expenditure Survey (ENGHo 2017-2018) and the 2018 National Agricultural Census (both still in process).*

3.4. Do the procedures exist to assess and justify demands for new statistics against their cost?

*3.4. Even though the new measures are estimated according to their scope and considering the expenditure on personnel, survey takers, travel allowances, and office and technological supplies for each new statistical product, INDEC does not have a methodological system to determine the execution costs of these statistical products. The financial management system does not consider allocation for cost centres or determine cost per product. Although there has been much improvement in the budget programming network, with programmes and activities, it is still limited in establishing cost per statistical product. The issue is due to the lack of budget autonomy. A new legal framework would enable the possibility of designing a strong programming network. The following includes a detail of programmes and activities of the budget programming network period 2018.*



3.5. Do the procedures exist to assess the continuing need for all statistics, to see if any can be discontinued or curtailed to free up resources?

3.5. *Given that there is no cost-per-product, it is not feasible to evaluate costs and goal fulfilment of each measure to analyse continuity. There is a table in progress to determine the cost of each statistical product, that supplements and complements the budget programming network. We expect to have the table ready for the 2019 budget year.*

3.6. Do the National Statistical Authorities have implemented a policy of continuous vocational training for their staff?

3.6. *Training human resources of the Institute and the National Statistical System is a power of INDEC, set by the national Statistical Law and has the aim of perfecting the technical and scientific level of the staff. The Institute currently has three training modalities:*

*a. Technical and Professional Continuous Training for INDEC and NSS staff in various areas: Statistics, Socio-demographics, Economics, IT, Communications, Organisation and Administration.*

*The initial stage of this program is a survey of the training needs of the areas of the Institute and it is developed in three ways: dissemination and administrative management of courses offered by the National Public Administration (INAP, for its Spanish acronym) on transverse topics, dissemination and management of training activities of other bodies and institutions (including professional training activities) and programming, development and evaluation of courses and workshops with own trainers.*

*b. Postgraduate studies: INDEC, in joint venture with the National University of La Matanza, offers the masters' course in Survey Design, Management and Analysis.*

*c. Training of staff (survey takers, supervisors, data entry staff, survey managers) who participate in statistical operations in all the country, in order to standardise the data collection criteria and the work methodology (This is also explained in Section 7.9.)*

*The three training modalities and their activities are expressed in programmes and included in the three-year Strategic Training Plans (PEC, for its Spanish acronym) and in the Annual Training Plans, approved by the INAP as regulatory body of public administration training.*

*INDEC has highlighted the following as training challenges: the strengthening of technical and professional careers, the increase of continuous training for NSS staff, the development of distance training courses and the plans for an Advanced Statistics Education Centre, meant for the NSS staff and the general public.*

#### **Section 4. Protect the privacy of data providers (including individuals, households, enterprises, administrations, and all levels of government) and guarantee by law the confidentiality of the individual information provided and its use for statistical purposes only.**

##### Questions related to section 4:

4.1. Is statistical confidentiality guaranteed by law?

*4.1. Both Law 17622 and its regulatory Decree 3110/70, have provisions intended to maintain the specifically mentioned statistical confidentiality of the information obtained through census operations and statistical samples. Such legal rules have been complemented by INDEC Provision 176/1999.*

*“The information to be provided to the bodies that compose the National Statistical System, in compliance with this Law, shall be kept secret and shall be used for statistical purposes only. The data shall be provided and published, exclusively, in joint compilations so that the trade or monetary secrets, or the individuals or legal entities therein mentioned are not revealed or singled out” (Section 10, Law 17622). Any person who, by reason of their position or responsibilities, becomes aware of statistical or census information shall keep such information strictly confidential (Section 13, Law 17622). Decree 3110/70 (Section 14) confirms these duties and adds that individual statements and/or information shall not be communicated to third parties –even if they are judicial authorities or official services other than the NSS’s –, nor shall they be used, disseminated or published in such a way that enables the identification of the individual or entity making the statement or providing the information (for example, within a penal investigation).*

*The duty to keep statistical confidentiality is required from all bodies of the National Statistical System. Peripheral provincial and municipal bodies have issued regulations to protect statistical confidentiality in their corresponding jurisdictions, which are similar to those provided by Law 17622 and Decree 3110/70. This is mandatory to access census and statistical information obtained by INDEC (Section 15, Decree 3110/70).*

4.2. Are specific measures in place to ensure the full protection of individual data from any potential disclosure without consent, with the aim to ensure the confidence of data providers in participating in statistical surveys: written instructions and internal guidelines are provided to statistical authority staff on the full protection of statistical confidentiality in the production and dissemination processes; appropriate penalties are prescribed for wilful breach of confidentiality and for any disclosure of individual data of a private nature that could infringe upon private life? Are these penalties well-known to statistical staff and new employees sign legal confidentiality commitment upon appointment?

*4.2. As mentioned before, INDEC sought to complement the duties established by Law 17622 and regulatory Decree 3110/70 by issuing Provision 176/99, which contains specific duties to maintain statistical confidentiality and secrecy, applicable to its own staff and national and international consultants, advisers, officials from other public organisations, within or outside the NSS (sections 1 and 2 of Provision 176/99).*

*New employees of INDEC -regardless of role, function or contract modality- must be formally informed of the obligations regarding confidentiality of data protected by statistical secrecy. Notifications should be kept in the personnel files, which are in custody of the Human Resources of the Institute (Sections 3 and 6, Provision 176/99).*

*The contracts or agreements with public bodies that are not part of the National Statistical System, private entities or international bodies, to prepare the statistical programs with INDEC shall include a clause whereby entities undertake to abide by Law 17622 and comply with the Provision (Section 4, Provision 176/99).*

*Pursuant to Law 17622, officers or employees that disclose individual census or statistical information to third parties, or use any such information learned by reason of their responsibilities and duties for their own advantage, or willingly distort, omit or alter statistical or census data, shall be discharged from all their civil service positions, and shall be punished by way of the sanctions applicable under Argentina's Criminal Code (Book II, Title V, Chapter III).*

4.3. Is the confidentiality policy made known to the public?

*4.3. The INDEC website (<http://www.indec.gob.ar>) contains the regulation protecting statistical secrecy in an easily visible and accessible section. As mentioned in Section 1 of this questionnaire, access to this site is free and open.*

4.4. Are physical, technological, administrative and organisational provisions in place to protect the security and integrity of statistical databases?

*4.4 Among the improvements to the facilities, made to protect IT infrastructure for the Institute's databases, we may highlight that, since November 2017, all equipment is located in a Tier III data centre owned by the public company ARSAT (Satellite Argentina).*

*Technological improvements are based on the implementation of an IT security ring made of firewalls, a web application firewall, an intrusion prevention system, proxies and network access control. The current Internet connectivity provider of the Institute is the Ministry of Modernisation, by means of the secure network MAN 2.0. Additionally, applications for data collection and use are being constantly updated, and those developed in-house are periodically submitted to penetration tests.*

4.5. Are provisions in place and are internal guidelines available to allow external user access to micro-data for statistical research purposes under strict protocols and only after anonymisation of the data?

*4.5. There is no specific access for qualified users. All published micro-data are provided as public access for all external users. Current regulation of the Institute complies with the Statistical Secrecy Provision in matters of data privacy. We are currently working on updating all procedures necessary for ensuring anonymity of information (See Section 9.11.)*

4.6. Are privacy issues as regards the use of new data sources (e.g. social network data) identified and are procedures implemented to guarantee statistical confidentiality?

*4.6. All aspects of data privacy are stipulated in the data security regulation of the Institute.*

**Section 5. Ensure the right to access administrative sources to produce official statistics. To this end, OECD Members and non-Members adhering to this recommendation should ensure that:**

- i) National Statistical Authorities have the right to access administrative data for the regular production of official statistics and to use them in the interest of ensuring quality of official statistics, raising the analytical value of official statistics, reducing burden on survey respondents and reducing the cost of statistical programmes.**

- ii) National Statistical Authorities co-operate with owners of administrative records as regards their statistical quality and have authority to influence their design to ensure they are fit for statistical purposes.**

Questions related to section 5:

- 5.1. Are the Statistical Authorities authorised by law to use administrative records for the regular production of official statistics?

*5.1. Law 17622/68 allows INDEC and the National Statistical System (NSS) to request information from all national, provincial and municipal bodies and offices, which are obliged to provide the relevant statistical data and information that is requested (Section 11). Any person who fails to provide the information required by the National Statistical System for statistical and census purposes in a timely manner, or provides false or misleading information, or deliberately omits any such information, shall be considered to be in violation of this Law and may be required to pay a penalty (Section 15). In the case of business and non-business entities, whether bodies corporate or not, their directors, administrators, managers, or members that participated in the actions considered punishable shall be held personally liable (Section 16, Law 17622).*

*Any violation to the provisions of Law 17622 shall be punished in accordance with the provisions established in Decree 3110 after the filing of administrative proceedings, where the right of defence shall be safeguarded and the nature of the infraction, the records of the offender and the harm caused shall be assessed (Sections 16 to 26, Decree 3110/70).*

*Currently, INDEC establishes agreements for the utilisation of these records for both economic and social statistics. Although the Institute has traditionally used administrative records in certain areas, it is currently in a stage of development of the use of administrative records for statistics that were not used previously, such as the Economic Census.*

- 5.2. Are administrative sources used whenever possible and cost-effective to avoid duplicating requests for information and reduce reliance on direct surveys?

*5.2. The administrative sources are starting to be considered by the Institute as a way of optimising their use for statistical purposes.*

*The areas of the Institute that most intensely use external records are: the National Directorate of National Accounts, the National Directorate of International Accounts, the National Directorate of the External Sector, the Directorate of Statistics of the Secondary Sector, the National Directorate of Social and Population Statistics (Directorate of Sector Statistics), National Directorate of Statistics and Prices of Production and Trade.*

- 5.3. Are National Statistical Authorities involved in the design of administrative data in order to make administrative data more suitable for statistical purposes?

*5.3. The Law specifies that INDEC has the statistical regulatory capacity to establish formatting guidelines for the collection of data throughout the National Statistical System. In this respect, there is integral standardisation experience in gathering information on cases of gender violence, working with each institution involved in the homogenisation of data loading. In practice, the Institute has only intervened in the design of public sector records in some cases.*

- 5.4. Do the National Statistical Authorities co-operate with owners of administrative data in assuring data quality?

*5.4. Yes. INDEC works in collaboration with a variety of bodies (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Security) and offers technical assistance. A noteworthy experience, from 2012, was the creation of the INDEC Single Record of Cases of Violence against Women (RUCVM, in its Spanish acronym) with the purpose of centralising and systematising the information available from*



*national and provincial bodies of the various institutions of the State and calculating conceptually and methodologically harmonised indices. Conceptual and methodological criteria have been established to define what information is entered into the RUCVM and under what conditions, that is, the conceptual and methodological harmonisation that allows standardisation and comparison of the data received from different providers. Within this program, INDEC acts as a recipient of raw databases and performs a task of formal and conceptual internal standardisation for the transformation of the administrative record into a statistical record.*

5.5. Are agreements made with owners of administrative records which set out their shared commitment to the use of these data for statistical purposes?

*5.5. Yes. To this end, the Institute enables information and data agreements with different public and private bodies. All agreements signed by INDEC includes a confidentiality clause for the use of data, in addition to a section that explains which officials of the other body will have access to the information shared by the Institute.*

5.6. Are recommended practices available for the reporting and presentation of administrative data?

*5.6. Yes. As an example of this, the file and database transfer of data from different providers of the Single Record of Cases of Violence Against Women is performed through a website in a reliable, safe and organised manner. It also eases the tasks of monitoring of progress and follow-up of the regular exchanges, since the system acts as an organised and documented file reservoir. As a result of these transfers, an exact image database is built in INDEC of every file received for processing and analysis. The Institute is performing these data harmonising tasks for the Single Record of Cases of Violence against Women and requires that the provided information be compatible with its guidelines.*

*In all other cases, data is received according to the prearranged formats of the established agreements.*

5.7. Is linking administrative data with survey data encouraged by National Statistical Authorities with the aim of reducing the burden on respondents, reducing the costs in producing official statistics, and increasing the analytical value of official statistics?

*5.7. INDEC is currently promoting the use of administrative records for statistical purposes. As an example of this, the Institute is in the process of a joint work plan with the National Council for Coordination of Social Policies, which falls under the Presidency of the Nation, and which is in charge of the administration of the National Taxation and Social Identification System (SINTyS, for its Spanish acronym). This system functions as a great data repository in possession of the State.*

**Section 6. Ensure the impartiality, objectivity and transparency of official statistics, through the development, production and dissemination by the National Statistical Authorities of statistics respecting scientific independence put in place in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably. Equitable treatment implies in particular equal access to data by all users.**

Questions related to section 6:

6.1. Are official statistics collected, compiled and disseminated on an impartial and objective basis and determined by statistical considerations only?

*6.1. The programmes that, to this date, compile data from administrative sources, records or through sampling operations are free to select their methods according to professional and scientific practice, and the relevant technical considerations, following exclusively statistical guidelines which are transparent and impartial. By the end of 2015, the Institute began deep methodological revisions in all its areas to evaluate the scientific rigour with which they develop their products, the types of sources used and the manner of compiling data. In 2017 the methodological revision was completed and, since*

*then, the work plan for the whole statistical production process (collection, compilation, use of data and dissemination) considers fulfilment of the Fundamental principles of official statistics of the UN Statistical Commission<sup>2</sup> and the Recommendation of the OECD Council on Good Statistical Practice, based on commitment to quality, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity in the dissemination of statistical data.*

6.2. Is equal access to official statistics for all users at the same time guaranteed by law? If a public or private body has access to official statistics prior to their public release, are this fact and subsequent arrangements publicised and controlled? In the event that a leak occurs, are pre-release arrangements revised so as to ensure impartiality?

*6.2. Law 17622, in force since 1968, does not consider this. At the time this questionnaire was answered, there was no regulatory change on the subject. However, since 2016 there is a written and published protocol that is part of INDEC's dissemination policy (see [https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/indicadores\\_coyuntura\\_fichas\\_07\\_17.pdf](https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/indicadores_coyuntura_fichas_07_17.pdf)), that guarantees simultaneous access for all data users. Since January 2017, the release calendar for indicators is published 12 months in advance and, at a fixed time (4.00pm), the data are uploaded to the Institute's webpage, the press mailing is sent, and the release is announced via social media (@INDECArgentina on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram). In 2017, a new simultaneous phone release system (via Whatsapp) was included.*

*There are non-regulated contingency plans for data leaks. There is no defined regulation on early access to data of public or private bodies. However, the dissemination policy is available at [https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/indicadores\\_coyuntura\\_fichas\\_07\\_17.pdf](https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/indicadores_coyuntura_fichas_07_17.pdf). Additionally, there is a link on the homepage to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), with a detail of users with early access to certain indicators.*

*Furthermore, INDEC has introduced a federal-level protocol for early dissemination of information to the Provincial Statistics Offices (PSOs) concerning the operations of their concern. These protocols establish that the DPEs should receive the Permanent Household Survey (PHS) data concerning their jurisdiction 6 to 24 hours in advance.*

*In all cases, early reports carry a watermark that warns the recipient (identified with a code) of the date and time of release, so as to clearly identify the provisional nature/embargo until the time of dissemination.*

6.3. Are choices of sources and statistical methods as well as decisions about the dissemination of statistics informed by statistical considerations?

*6.3. Yes. INDEC's dissemination policy is guided by the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics of the UN Statistical Commission<sup>3</sup> and the OECD Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice, based on commitment to quality, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity. It has been made public in several sections of the website, as well as in the publication [https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/indicadores\\_coyuntura\\_fichas\\_07\\_17.pdf](https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/indicadores_coyuntura_fichas_07_17.pdf).*

6.4. Are errors discovered in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and publicised?

*6.4. When errors do not encumber the correct interpretation of data, due to misspellings or typos, they are corrected in the digital versions and files are replaced without special communication. However, if there are errors in the data (conventional signs, displacement of columns, calculation errors, etc.) there is a notice in the website attached to the corresponding file. For printed versions, an erratum is*

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unece.org/stats/archive/docs.fp.e.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.unece.org/stats/archive/docs.fp.e.html>

*published and distributed to all subscribers who have received the publication with errors and it is added to all publications still in stock.*

6.5. Is information on the methods and procedures used publicly available?

*6.5. The link <http://www.indec.gob.ar/metodologias.asp> contains all digital versions of all methodologies produced by INDEC since the beginning of the current administration, and a bibliographical list of those -current and previous- available in the library. Most printed publications contain a synthesis of methods and procedures used for the production of each indicator, such is the case of the technical reports and the monthly journal "INDEC Informa", which include a link to the website for more detail. Furthermore, metadata can be accessed through the subsections that give a detail of all information corresponding to each indicator.*

*The project "Digital statistical library" is included in Strategic objective 1 Promote and guarantee the dissemination of statistics through digital platforms within Strategic pillar 4, on the promotion of dissemination and friendly access to statistics, of the [2018-2020 Work Programme](#).*

6.6. Are statistical release and statements made in press conferences objective and non-partisan?

*6.6. Statistical information is published in an objective manner, without political analysis or partisan interpretation. Clarifications are exclusively on the movement of those variables that can be affected by statistical phenomena such as seasonality or market shifts.*

6.7. Are statistical release dates and times announced in advance? Is a twelve-month-ahead advance release calendar is provided? Are official statistics released according a standard daily time? Is any divergence from the dissemination time schedule publicised in advance, explained, and is a new date set?

*6.7. Since early 2017, the release calendar is published in the website 12 months in advance: [https://www.indec.gob.ar/calendario\\_ingles.asp](https://www.indec.gob.ar/calendario_ingles.asp). Official statistical information produced by INDEC is disseminated in digital format in the website at a fixed time (4.00pm UTC-3) and scheduled dates, following an annual release calendar to guarantee equal and direct access for all users. During the Institute's current administration, there has been no rescheduling of reports published in the calendar due to contingencies before dissemination. The Technical Directorate has established an internal preparation circuit for reports within the producing areas and the National Directorate of Dissemination and Communication, to optimise diagramming and revision times before publication.*

6.8. Are any major revisions or changes in methodologies announced in advance?

*6.8. Yes. When there are changes to presentation of results, new tables, methodological changes or new data sources, among others, they are communicated at least 30 days in advance to users and, if necessary, further detail is sent to the media in press releases.*

*When the DNDC considers it relevant, for example, in the case of new data collection operations or renewal of statistical infrastructure, each change is presented in press conferences, meetings with users, and specific methodological documents.*

6.9. Are statistical plans and programmes, methodologies, processes and procedures, quality assessments made publicly available by the statistical authorities?

*6.9. It is INDEC practice to present, in the website, programmes with validated methodologies, as well as processes and methodologies used for their statistical production, to disseminate among the general public. To this date, there are no developments of quality evaluations for processes and procedures of different areas or programs.*

*The project “Accessible and interactive digital platforms” is included in Strategic objective 1 Promote and guarantee the dissemination of statistics through digital platforms within Strategic pillar 4, on the promotion of dissemination and friendly access to statistics, of the [2018-2020 Work Programme](#).*

6.10. Do guidelines exist for the presentation of data, including the treatment of time series breaks, and seasonally adjusted data, with the aim to ensure that official statistical data and metadata are presented in a way that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons?

*6.10. Due to the special situation of the Institute during late 2015, the treatment of breaks in series has been informed in methodological notes of the reports of some indicators that required them specifically. Additionally, there are appropriate notices on certain indicators with production features that do not allow historic review, which are placed visibly and permanently in the news section of the website. When users request information concerning a certain period, the answer includes the following observation: “Statistical series published before 2007 and until December 2015 should be considered with caution, except those revised in 2016 and identified as such. INDEC, within the powers granted by decrees 181/15 and 55/16, arranged the required investigation to establish the regularity of procedures for data collection and processing, production of indicators and dissemination.”*

**Section 7. Employ sound methodology and commit to professional standards used in the production of official statistics. To this end, OECD Members and non-Members adhering to this recommendation should:**

- i) apply appropriate statistical procedures and methods, including a stated revisions policy;**
- ii) strive to adhere to international norms and standards, such as methodological manuals developed by the United Nations Statistical Commission or by the OECD, and international classifications in the statistics collected by the OECD.**

Questions related to section 7:

7.1. Are official statistics produced according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics with regards to methods and procedures used for the collection, processing, storage and dissemination of statistical data?

*7.1. Currently, professionalism and scientific and ethical principles of statistics producers are promoted within the Institute and throughout the National Statistical System for all production processes. The implemented statistical methods are in line with international recommendations and the aim is to keep them updated and with the latest IT technology. There is also an effort to establish a standardised calculation and analysis tool for the whole Institute and, to this effect, an agreement was arranged to utilise the latest version of the SAS statistical analysis system.*

7.2. Is sound statistical methodology requiring adequate tools and procedures and expertise implemented and guaranteed by the national statistics law?

*7.2. Both Law 17622 and its regulatory Decree 3110/70 guarantee that the missions and functions of INDEC are fulfilled with adequate criteria and procedures, performed by staff which is suitable for the task (See also Section 2.5.)*

7.3. Are international statistical standards, guidelines and good practices applied in the NSS as appropriate?

*7.3. Not in all cases. Some bodies belonging to the NSS follow international standards and good practice in data dissemination for international presentations (for example, the SDDS and IMF).*

*INDEC adheres to the OECD recommendation on good practice. However, there is still no mechanism of international guidelines or good practices in place in the rest of the NSS. As an example of the exercises performed in joint venture with other organisations of the NSS, we can mention that INDEC provides data for the indicators that are disseminated in the IMF SDDS, according to predetermined standards. This coordination is done through the National Directorate of National Accounts and the BCRA (Central Bank of the Republic of Argentina). INDEC is in the process of signing an agreement with the BCRA to formalise the technical cooperation of both Institutions.*

*Furthermore, the DENSEN is working on a forthcoming NSS plenary to disseminate an agreement on good practice and quality assurance within the centralised bodies of the NSS.*

7.4. Are national statistical classifications developed by statistical authorities consistent with international classifications? Does detailed concordance exist between national classifications and the corresponding international classifications?

*7.4. The nomenclatures and classifications used by the Institute match the technical needs for statistical production. The National Nomenclature System (SiNN, for its Spanish acronym) in place seeks to standardise and harmonise the different classifications used at international and MERCOSUR level.*

*The 2010 National Classification of Economic Activities (ClaNAE, for its Spanish acronym) partly corresponds to the previous versions (1997 and 2004 ClaNAE), the ISIC rev.4 up to four digits and the Classification of Economic Activities for Socio-Demographic surveys (CAES, for its Spanish acronym), which is a commonly used classification in statistics of MERCOSUR countries.*

*The National Classification of Occupation (CNO, for its Spanish acronym) corresponds, up to two digits, as requested by the ILO, with the ILO International Standard Classification of Occupation (ISCO), both the 1988 and the 2008 versions.*

7.5. Are procedures in place to ensure that standard concepts, definitions and classifications are consistently applied throughout the National Statistical Authorities?

*7.5. INDEC, as head of the National Statistical System, makes available to its members the current concepts, standards, classifications and nomenclature, and promotes their use. However, there are no specific procedures to this end. The National Nomenclature System (SiNN) establishes a nomenclature network for official use throughout the national territory according to its technical needs and generates a methodological framework to ensure a uniform design of the classification implementation.*

7.6. Do subject matter advisory committees made up of external experts advise on relevant statistical matters?

*7.6. INDEC consults regularly external experts of the academic world or professionals of proven expertise in the matter. For example, for the Household Expenditure Survey (ENGHO, for its Spanish acronym), an external advisory committee was convened to generate and revise the main guidelines for the survey, its scope and the collection and thematic instruments. Additionally, for the development of the next Rural Housing Sampling Frame, external advisers, with proven experience in the sampling fields of geostatistics, cartography and household survey strategies were convened. Other examples include expert consulting for the National Agricultural Census and the National Population and Housing Census.*

7.7. Are graduates in the relevant academic disciplines recruited?

*7.7. The Institute has a regular search for graduates from public and private universities in different fields (Mathematics, Statistics, Economics, Sociology, IT, etc.) to complete its staff.*

7.8. Is co-operation with the scientific community, academic institutions and international organisations organized to improve methodology and the effectiveness of the methods implemented, and to improve methodological and technical skills of staff?

7.8. *Yes. INDEC is strongly linked to the statistical community.*

*Regarding the cooperation with the international community, INDEC participates in 12 of the 15 working groups of the Statistics Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (SCA-ECLAC), and in various specific conferences of the SCA, the United Nations Statistical Commission, IMF technical courses and workshops and other international organisations and agencies. In 2016, INDEC began resuming participation in these international groups, in which the technical staff shares technical and methodological information and receives training.*

*Additionally, during 2018 the IMF provided training on balance of payments. During 2017, INEGI Mexico and DANE Colombia provided technical assistance on population censuses. In addition, INDEC made a technical visit to the IBGE Brazil on the National Agricultural Census.*

*INDEC participates in technical cooperation events of IMF; MERCOSUR in its Specialised Statistical Meeting; in the UN Statistical Commission; and the OECD CSSP.*

*Regarding international technical missions by INDEC, in 2016 there were 42; in 2017 there were 73; and in 2018 there have already been 33 missions.*

*Lastly, there have been meetings on the subject with the Statistics Department at the University of Rosario (UNR, for its Spanish acronym) and the Argentine Statistical Society (SAE, for its Spanish acronym), and there is also an agreement with the National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET, for its Spanish acronym).*

7.9. Are strategies for recruitment, as well as processes for technical and managerial development and training of existing staff, established, implemented and revised as required?

*7.9. The recruitment strategies are developed by the National Directorate of Human Resources and Organisation by means of its two divisions: the Directorate of Administration of Human Resources and the Directorate of Staff Development and Career. The former receives requirements and staff needs from the different areas of the Institute, both for functional tasks and for great statistical operations, and decides the offer-and-search strategies of the appropriate candidates, from publication of advertisements in the institutional Intranet to internship agreements with universities or mass offers to students.*

*The Directorate of Staff Development and Career intervenes in the specification of profiles by defining roles and functions and carries out the selection process through the application of a battery of tests from the psychology board. Both in the case of coverage of functional vacancies and for statistical operations, the reports from the psychology board are sent to the requiring areas, which follow up with interviews for the selection of the candidate. For mass operations, there is a merit order of candidates considering interview results, evaluation of records and aptitude of each candidate, and incorporation of concepts and methodology developed in the training courses designed by INDEC. In the last stage, notification of selected staff, information on employment conditions and hiring are a duty of the Directorate of Administration of Human Resources.*

*It is worth mentioning that, based on a principle of regulatory centralisation and executive decentralisation for the access of mass statistical operations, INDEC establishes the criteria that the candidates and contracts must meet, while each Provincial Statistics Office does the actual hiring.*

*Regarding training of staff, as mentioned in Section 3.6, the training modalities of INDEC are: a) technical and professional continuous training for INDEC and NSS staff in different areas, b) postgraduate activities, and c) training of staff (data collectors, supervisors, data entry staff, survey managers) that participate in statistical operations throughout the country, in order to standardise the data collection criteria and work methodology. Training for statistical operation staff involves the design of a survey structure of the operation in question, definition of profiles and skills for the different vacancies, design of the training activity (theory and practice), design and production of education*

*materials (in collaboration with substantial areas), educational training and support of educators during the activity, and the implementation and evaluation of the training. To this end, there is an interdisciplinary team of professionals within the Directorate of Staff Development and Career of the Institute, which is trained and experienced in the organisation of training for censuses and surveys, and interacts with statistical operation managers of the technical areas. All training programs are approved by the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP, for its Spanish acronym), as regulatory body of training in the public administration sphere. There is great experience in the development of web-based teaching devices and the virtual campus for internal training for specific statistical operations.*

7.10. In the case of statistical surveys, are questionnaires and systems for production systematically tested prior to the data collection?

*7.10. Yes, the programmes that involve questionnaires go through a pilot test period of their production systems for most of their components. Such is the case of the Household Expenditure Survey (ENGHO), Victimisation Survey, 2020 National Population and Housing Census and the 2018 National Agricultural Census, in which questionnaires and modality (tablets) will go through various testing processes before reaching their definite form.*

7.11. Are parallel runs undertaken when systems or questionnaires are redesigned in any significant way?

*7.11. For the periodic socio-demographic surveys (Permanent Household Survey, PHS), the evaluation is less systematic and only performed when great methodological or production stage changes are introduced (input system, validation, inconsistency, calculation, etc.). On these occasions and during a period decided by technical considerations (bridge period) data are collected simultaneously. The aim is to respect the probabilistic balance and reduce the possible non-sampling errors that can be produced by the changes.*

7.12. Are survey designs, sample selections and estimation methods well based and regularly reviewed and revised as required?

*7.12. The sample designs, the selection processes and the estimation methods follow theoretical and practical principles of finite population samples. They are based on the probabilistic terms that demanded by practice and are revised periodically to incorporate methodological updates. The periodical socio-demographic surveys, such as the Permanent Household Survey, and the remaining surveys that are or will be performed, such as the Household Expenditure Survey (ENGHO), the Survey of Activities of Adolescents and Children (EANNA, for its Spanish acronym) and the National Victimisation Survey (ENV, for its Spanish acronym) employ the Master Urban Sample of Dwellings of Argentina (MMUVRA, for its Spanish acronym) as a selection and sample design source. The sample selections follow probabilistic rigour defined by design. The estimation methods involve calibration estimators by using population projections at different aggregation levels.*

7.13. Are the business register and the frame for population surveys regularly evaluated and adjusted if necessary in order to ensure high quality?

*7.13. The national Master Sample of Urban Households (MMUVRA) is periodically revised and updated by geographical area groups defined during the design stage. Updates are performed systematically within a 10-year design validity period to account for changes in the population structure, modifications, and changes in the household lists of the MMUVRA. The revisions allow the remediation of problems in scope and adjustment of the digital cartography of the frame and of the process of incorporation of updates. The last update occurred during 2014 and 2015 and a new one is planned for the end of 2018.*

*The Institute does not have a business register or a sampling frame for economic units. However, there is a panel of large enterprises, which is updated to provide data or tools for economic indicators. In the immediate future, and using administrative sources, records and an Economic Census, the aim is to have an exhaustive business register to be used as a sampling frame for the economic surveys.*

7.14. Are data collection, data entry, and coding routinely monitored and revised as required?

*7.14. The data collection processes for programs which are currently validated are supervised and monitored by ad hoc staff, trained and qualified for each operation of the Institute. There is monitoring of the behaviour and compliance of each data collector in the field, of the delivered material and the number of revisits in case of failed contact. Supervisors and staff in charge of the surveys hold periodic meetings during the course of the survey. Data input stages include quality control of data entered by a series of edition guidelines and consistencies in case of corrections during the process or to validate inputs. Both automatic and manual coding processes are monitored by the Coordination Unit of the National Nomenclature System (SiNN) of the Institute and solve conflictive situations and treat accordingly.*

7.15. Are appropriate editing and imputation methods used and regularly reviewed, revised or updated as required?

*7.15. Currently, and for selected programmes, there are independent data-editing and consistency plans which are applied manually and semi-manually to data. Data-editing and input methods are being tested by simulation and adapted to methodological adjustments which are being introduced. The National Directorate of Statistical Methodology has a specific area to approach this particular issue.*

7.16. Do revisions follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures?

*7.16. The National Directorate of Statistical Methodology of the Institute, together with the area responsible for the corresponding programme, establishes the subject of revision and scope (integral or partial). The procedures employed include the treatment of thematic aspects of the program, scope, relevant documentation, sources employed, evaluation of the collection methods, data input and processing, employed estimators or indicators, estimates of sampling errors if any, limitations of results and possible sources of non-sampling errors, and presentation modality of the statistical product, among others.*

*Revisions are documented by means of internal technical reports, including explanatory detail of the employed methodology, revision results and recommendations and/or modifications that the programme must include.*

7.17. Is a revision schedule published by the producers of official statistics?

*7.17. Only for selected statistical operations, a revision policy and schedule are included in their corresponding methodologies.*

*INDEC does not publish a revision schedule for procedures. Samples, questionnaires, and definitions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. The timetable for the implementation of a statistical activity, when considered appropriate, includes a date for the presentation of the preliminary results and another one for the dissemination of the final results. In the case of surveys, and in accordance with the contracts established with users, during the implementation of the field operation, a cut is performed, and a preliminary database is submitted to calculate its indicators and monitor them. To complete the field operation, a final database is obtained and therefore the presentation of the final results.*

7.18. Is the design of statistical questionnaires used in survey-based data collection processes regularly reviewed?

*7.18. Each programme area, together with an ad hoc team, evaluates the convenience and opportunity of a revision. For continuous programmes (such as the Permanent Household Survey) the design of survey questionnaires is examined and tested when subject to important changes or incorporation of new thematic modules.*

*In general, pilot or questionnaire tests are used to evaluate the effectiveness of the modality, flow of questions, response time and burden on respondents, among other factors.*



**Section 8. Commit to the quality of statistical outputs and processes, in particular to key quality dimensions as defined in national and international quality assessment frameworks, for instance in the *Quality Framework and Guidelines for OECD Statistical Activities*: timeliness and punctuality (statistics are released in a timely and punctual manner); relevance (statistics meet the needs of users); accuracy (statistics accurately and reliably portray reality); credibility (confidence is placed by users in statistical products); coherence and comparability (statistics are consistent internally, over time and in space and it is possible to combine and make joint use of related data from different sources); and interpretability and accessibility (see Recommendation 9).**

Questions related to section 8:

Quality management, monitoring, evaluation plans and reports

8.1. Does a quality policy ensure that the producers of official statistics systematically assess the quality of official statistics? Is quality policy publicly available through guidelines, framework, reports, etc. and do staff members receive appropriate training for their application?

*8.1. The Institute does not certify (nor has it ever) the quality of external or internal statistical processes. However, there is a current related project: the system of quality management of statistical production processes and products of INDEC and the National Statistical System.*

*The project is in its initial stages: a theoretical framework is being drafted, the indicators to be incorporated are being selected and calculated, and the institutional monitoring structure is being designed.*

8.2. Is there an efficient, and possibly independent, quality management system? Does it include an appropriate organisational structure; quality indicators and other tools and processes for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the quality of source data; and the collection, processing, and dissemination of official statistics?

*8.2. No. However, the quality project mentioned above anticipates the creation of a Technical Management Committee integrated by the directors of the substantial areas of INDEC.*

8.3. Are the national quality management systems based on recognised models for quality frameworks, such as the IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF), the European Foundation for Quality Management, European Code of Practice, the European Statistical System Quality Assurance Framework, Total Quality Management and ISO EN 9001, etc.?

*8.3. The quality management system of the statistical production processes and products of INDEC and the National Statistical System are based on the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the Code of Good Practice adopted by ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), which is based on the European Statistics Code of Good Practice, as well as the OECD Good Practice Guidelines. The reference model is based on the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), produced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and is being evaluated for feasibility and adaptation to the needs of INDEC and the NSS.*

8.4. Are there regular and thorough reviews of key statistical outputs involving external experts where appropriate?

*8.4. During 2016 the Institute's statistics were subject to review by the authorities. Additionally, INDEC has been actively participating in international statistical fora with the aim of adapting its processes to international trends. In this regard, both the Inter-American Development Bank and the specialised agencies are advising and supporting different processes conducted by INDEC.*

8.5. Do the quality assessment and certification processes guarantee the official nature of statistics produced in various parts of the NSS?

*8.5. There is an ongoing survey of the central bodies of the NSS (including central and provincial statistical services), their structures, personnel and statistical operations. It is estimated that the survey will be completed this year. Furthermore, quality assessment and certification processes of statistical operations would be a matter regulated by the new legal framework proposed by INDEC.*

8.6. Are the organisational structure of the entities belonging to the NSS and governance arrangements appropriate and regularly reviewed to assess and justify new statistical demands and related costs?

*8.6. Since Argentina is a Federal state, institutional arrangements regarding governance of provincial statistical bodies are subject to specific provincial legislation. In this sense, not all provincial statistical bodies are structured and organised by best practice principles. In order to address this situation, the aim is that provincial states modify their statistical laws to promote better governance arrangements that follow the same path as INDEC.*

8.7. Are information and communication technologies regularly monitored and assessed for use in data collection, data processing and data dissemination?

*8.7. INDEC's management is dedicated to the renovation and update of the technological resources of the Institute. In this respect, there is an inventory of existing materials and needs. However, it is worth mentioning that data dissemination is optimally done by means of the latest channels available (website and social media).*

*The Institute's IT is monitored with different systems. The collected metrics are used to prepare a capability plan for the following budgetary period, in order to acquire the IT assets necessary to guarantee technological support for the directorates of the Institute and the adoption of new technologies and data sources.*

#### Accuracy

8.9. Are source data, intermediate results and statistical outputs regularly assessed and validated?

*8.9. In this stage the Institute does not have a regular revision plan. However, in order to ensure statistical rigour, each programme currently evaluates the reliability of data sources and the validity of the final or intermediate results, comparing them to the previously obtained results or administrative sources, whenever available. Results that do not meet validation standards completely are either not published or published with a warning.*

8.10. Are processes put in place by National Statistical Authorities to ensure that sampling and non-sampling errors measured, systematically documented, and is that information made available to users?

*8.10. Currently, the Institute's programmes involving sample studies in order to obtain estimates or results are being revised. The recommendation is to present reports on the methodology for calculation and tables that indicate the sampling error through coefficient of variation or any other measure for estimation. For the existing surveys, it is not current practice to present non-sampling error studies, even for the treatment of non-response or their extent. Qualified users are exceptionally provided some information that can warn them of this phenomenon to orient them in their studies or processing and determine the impact within their conclusions.*

8.11. Are studies and analysis of revisions regularly conducted according to transparent procedures and are the results made available to users?

*8.11. Yes. In 2016, under Executive Declaration of Statistical Emergency, all processes, statistics and results were revised. The conclusions of these revisions have been published (GDP/PHS).*

*Within this framework, revisions were conducted in a transparent manner and made available to users.*

#### Timeliness and punctuality

8.12. Does timeliness meet international statistical release standards?

*8.12. Yes. INDEC meets the publication guide established by the IMF. The periodical reports of results follow the guidelines of the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and can be found at [dsdd.fmi.org](http://dsdd.fmi.org): <http://dsbb.imf.org/Pages/SDDS/CtyCtgList.aspx?ctycode=ARG> and <http://www.mecon.gov.ar/progeco/calendar.htm>.*

8.13. Does the periodicity of statistics take into account user requirements as much as possible?

*8.13. Yes. User requirements are taken into account as much as possible with the available resources and time required to complete the technical and professional procedures for the publication of sound and timely statistical data. Additionally, the periodicity of INDEC's release calendar follows the guidelines of the SDDS Guide for Subscribers and Users (2007) of the IMF (<https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2016/07/27/15/45/Standards-for-Data-Dissemination>).*

8.14. Is a standard day time for the release of statistics made public?

*8.14. Yes. Official statistical information produced by INDEC is disseminated in digital format in the web page at a fixed time (4.00pm UTC-3) and dates, following an annual advance release calendar to guarantee equal and direct access to all users ([https://www.indec.gob.ar/calendario\\_ingles.asp](https://www.indec.gob.ar/calendario_ingles.asp)).*

8.15. Are preliminary results of acceptable aggregate accuracy released when considered useful?

*8.15. Methodological notes included in short-term indicators specify when data are preliminary, provisional or definitive. The methodologies published for the various indicators clarify whether dissemination of preliminary results is possible when a substantial degree of accuracy can be guaranteed.*

#### Coherence and comparability

8.16. Are official statistics consistent within datasets (i.e. elementary data are based on comparable concepts, definitions and classifications and can be meaningfully combined), across datasets (i.e. data are based on common concepts, units, definitions and classifications, or that any differences are explained and can be allowed for) and over time (i.e. data are based on common concepts, definitions, units, classifications, and methodology over time, or that any differences are explained and can be allowed for)?

*8.16. The current revision process of some of the programmes evaluates different aspects related to coherence and comparability with the base information that make up the different available datasets as sources or tools for statistical production. Not all data are based strictly on common concepts, units, definitions and classifications throughout the different databases of the Institute. Thus work is being done for the unification of criteria among the producing areas to achieve the coherence that will allow the elimination of inconsistencies when associating data of similar themes which have alternative concepts or definition of a same subject. Accordance with the legislation in force is being promoted throughout the Institute in matters of utilised cartographic classifications and definitions of common use, both internally and across the NSS, seeking to unify them to ease comparability and coherence with other bodies.*

8.17. Are statistics from the different sources and of different periodicity compared and reconciled?

*8.17. A great part of the statistics which are being produced and which have been validated during this period are not easily compared with the statistics produced in the previous years. Great irregularities were found in most of the data production stages during the revision, which meant that the previous*

*disseminated and found results could not be used. This also led to the discontinuation of index series or the use of periods with a more reliable quality, transparency and objectivity to begin or continue the statistical production of the Institute.*

8.18. Are statistics compiled according to common standards with respect to scope, definitions, classifications, and units in the different surveys and sources?

*8.18. Within all validated programmes (and those in validation process) there is extensive work aimed towards unifying common criteria and, whenever possible, definitions and classifications, to ease interaction between programmes in statistical production when they use the same source or survey.*

#### Relevance

8.19. Are processes in place to consult users, monitor the relevance and utility of existing statistics in meeting their needs, and consider their emerging needs and priorities?

*8.19. Yes. INDEC is carrying out a user satisfaction and website performance survey to understand user needs and requirements of information. It is available at <https://encuesta.indec.gob.ar/>. Additionally, there is continuous quantitative and qualitative monitoring of information produced by the Institute that appears in print, audio-visual and digital media. The press clipping service is done by a third party.*

*The project “Expanding access via social media and online response service” is included in Strategic objective 1 Promote and guarantee the dissemination of statistics through digital platforms within Strategic pillar 4, on the promotion of dissemination and friendly access to statistics, of the [2018-2020 Work Programme](#).*

8.20. Are user satisfaction surveys undertaken on a regular basis? Are the results publicly released and considered as an input for decisions about plans and priorities and are they reflected in the statistical work programmes?

*8.20. As part of the capacity building project of INDEC, in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank, the second semester of 2018 will see the first user satisfaction survey of the current administration. The aim of this study is to evaluate the institutional image and the quality and impact of the current statistical dissemination formats. The study, which is expected to begin the administrative process in June 2018, will be outsourced to guarantee transparency and objectivity of the results.*

**Section 9. Ensure user-friendly data access and dissemination, so that statistics are presented in a clear and understandable form, released in a suitable and convenient manner, including in machine-readable form (‘open data’), can be found easily, and are available and accessible on an impartial basis with supporting metadata and guidance. This also entails a commitment to respond to major misinterpretations of data by users.**

#### Questions related to section 9:

9.1. Is statistical information available through different dissemination tools, including media channels, Internet, online database and paper publications and easily downloadable in different formats?

*9.1. All data produced by INDEC is available at [www.indec.gob.ar](http://www.indec.gob.ar). Users can freely consult and download information from this site. This website contains documentation in PDF format (technical reports, methodologies, dissemination material), statistical tables in XLS, XLSM, CSV and TXT format, databases in Radatam and microdata bases in SAV, SPSS and DBF, which are available to users for reprocessing. There are also interactive consultation systems available for foreign trade and labour market indicators.*

*Although microdata bases available to the public are appropriately anonymised, the task of the service areas of statistical institutes remains fundamental, since they can process confidential information, and*

produce aggregated tables (upon user request) in a manner that does not violate secrecy. At INDEC, the special works area of the DNDC does custom information processing on foreign trade and the population and housing censuses.

Additionally, printed publications are edited: the “INDEC Informa” (monthly journal that includes all main indicators), the (quarterly) Industrial Products Statistics, the Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Argentina, methodologies and institutional dissemination and statistical literacy material.

There are also alternative data access channels in social media (@INDECArgentina on Twitter, Facebook, Youtube and Instagram), with the objective of expanding access to statistical data to reach new audiences.

In addition, the main media of the country receive the technical reports via email and phone apps (for example, Whatsapp).

The project “Expanding access via social media and online response service” is included in Strategic objective 1 Promote and guarantee the dissemination of statistics through digital platforms within Strategic pillar 4, on the promotion of dissemination and friendly access to statistics, of the [2018-2020 Work Programme](#).

9.2. Is there a dissemination policy ensuring the free dissemination of official statistics?

9.2. The Style Manual, created by the DNDC and available at [https://www.indec.gov.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/manual\\_estilo\\_indec\\_06\\_18.pdf](https://www.indec.gov.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/manual_estilo_indec_06_18.pdf) refers, in its chapter 1, to the Dissemination Policies. Item 1.7 specifically states:

#### 1.7 User information licenses

The use of INDEC'S website ([www.indec.gov.ar](http://www.indec.gov.ar)) is open and free for all users. Except when specifically indicated, all material that can be accessed in the website are under Creative Commons (CC) license. This allows users to copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format, provided the source is duly cited and any changes are clearly signalled.

The authorship of all publications produced by INDEC belongs to the Institute, in its in its capacity as editor. ISSNs and ISBNs are registered under its name. When, in some specific works, it is considered that other authors and collaborators should be mentioned, they will be included in the legal notice. Such mention lies in a moral or intellectual acknowledgment, and does not in any way grant property rights to the persons involved. INDEC is not responsible for misuse by users of the published content in any medium or format.

Similarly, the introduction to the publication “Main indicators” [https://www.indec.gov.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/indicadores\\_coyuntura\\_fichas\\_07\\_17.pdf](https://www.indec.gov.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/indicadores_coyuntura_fichas_07_17.pdf) includes a detail of the Institute's dissemination policy.

9.3. Is English-language statistical information (data and metadata) available on websites of National Statistical Authorities, in order to ensure equal access to national statistics for international users?

9.3. INDEC's website contains an English section with institutional information (missions and functions, law of creation, history) and the main indicators on prices, industry, construction, services and foreign trade. To expand access to INDEC output throughout the international community, the English version of the institutional information section is continuously updated, and documents, such as methodologies, statistical reports and metadata of the main indicators are translated.

Additionally, there is a publicly available in-house bilingual glossary, the “[INDECcionario](#)”, that includes technical and statistical terms, is periodically updated and contributes to user and general public understanding of the information published by INDEC.

*Argentina is also an adherent to the 1996 IMF Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB), and has adopted the quality standards that the IMF sets for each indicator in the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). There is a direct link to the SDDS system on INDEC's home page.*

9.4. Are there a corporate strategy and appropriate guidelines in place for the preparation of statistical publications (paper and electronic)?

*9.4. The Institute has a Style Manual, updated annually, which is part of the collection Normas INDEC N° 5 (INDEC Standards No 5) in digital format and with a small number of printed versions to distribute among the data producing areas. It can be viewed and downloaded at [https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/manual\\_estilo\\_indec\\_06\\_18.pdf](https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/manual_estilo_indec_06_18.pdf)*

*Additionally, there is an internal preparation circuit for scheduled reports to optimise resources and reinforce revision mechanisms before publication.*

9.5. Are there a corporate database and glossaries promoting the use of standard statistical concepts and definitions?

*9.5. In the website, there is a glossary of standardised statistical terms and definitions, to which the bilingual glossary, the "INDECcionario", was added. The INDECcionario includes technical and statistical terms, is periodically updated, and contributes to user and general public understanding of the information published by INDEC. They can be consulted at: <https://www.indec.gob.ar/glosario.asp> and [https://www.indec.gob.ar/glosario\\_bilingue.asp](https://www.indec.gob.ar/glosario_bilingue.asp), respectively.*

9.6. Are users kept informed about the methodology of statistical processes including the use of administrative data?

*9.6. All technical reports include a brief methodological summary with reference to the published information. There is a special section in the website for methodologies, available at: <http://www.indec.gob.ar/metodologias.asp>. When there are changes to presentation of results, new tables, methodological changes or new data sources, among others, they are communicated at least 30 days in advance to users and, if necessary, further detail is sent to the media in press releases.*

*When the DNDC considers it relevant, for example, in the case of new data collection operations or renewal of statistical infrastructure, each change is presented in press conferences, meetings with users, and specific methodological documents.*

*The use of administrative data is duly identified in published results of, for example, employment record statistics, single record of cases of violence against women, and price indices.*

9.7. Are metadata documented according to standardized metadata systems?

*9.7. The Institute's website currently includes the Statistical Services and Operations Survey: <http://www.indec.gob.ar/sen.asp>. This directory was developed by the Directorate of Coordination of the National Statistical System (DCNSS), and the information it provides on each statistical operation (OE, for its Spanish acronym) follows the format agreed with the countries of MERCOSUR (Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay). It is updated annually.*

*Each operation includes information on: statistical service (SE, for its Spanish acronym), executive unit, topic, objective of the statistical operation, manner of data collection, studied population, geographical coverage, level of geographical disaggregation, start date of the OE, type of dissemination, availability of information, website of publication of information and methodology.*

*Additionally, INDEC provides data and metadata for indicators that are disseminated through the IMF DSBB following the Fund's standards.*

*The Technical Directorate of the Institute is currently studying the use of a standardised metadata system, such as the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX), to include it in the results of the main indicators.*

*The project “Accessible and interactive digital platforms” is included in Strategic objective 1 Promote and guarantee the dissemination of statistics through digital platforms within Strategic pillar 4, on the promotion of dissemination and friendly access to statistics, of the [2018-2020 Work Programme](#).*

9.8. Are a corporate strategy and appropriate guidelines in place for the preparation and dissemination of metadata on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, statistical techniques, differences from internationally accepted standards, annotation of good practices, geographical coverage, etc.?

*9.8. Within the framework of the National Statistical System, and adjusted to a format agreed with MERCOSUR countries, a survey of statistics of the National Statistical System and its statistical operations is published. It allows the continuous updating of the list of members of the National Statistical System and knowledge of the statistical operations that they develop.*

9.9. Are there processes ensuring that sampling and non-sampling errors are measured and systematically documented and is that information made available to users for all key statistical outputs?

9.9. Yes. Section 4.1.8 Coefficients of variation of the Style Manual, [https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/manual\\_estilo\\_indec\\_06\\_18.pdf](https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/manual_estilo_indec_06_18.pdf) states:

*In the case of those results that present data estimated from a sampling frame, each programme must establish the most appropriate manner to express the coefficients of variation (CV), indicating them with their values or by some sign specific to that program. It is recommended that these decisions be maintained over time.*

*Examples of this practice can be found at:*

[https://www.indec.gob.ar/uploads/informesdeprensa/eph\\_pobreza\\_02\\_17.pdf](https://www.indec.gob.ar/uploads/informesdeprensa/eph_pobreza_02_17.pdf)

*(Poverty and indigence indicators of the Permanent Household Survey)*

9.10. Are there internal guidelines available in statistical agencies on responding to erroneous comments? Are these guidelines well known by staff?

*9.10. The dissemination policies established in the Style Manual state:*

[https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/manual\\_estilo\\_indec\\_06\\_18.pdf](https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/manual_estilo_indec_06_18.pdf)

*In case of misuse of the information provided by INDEC, a clarifying statement shall be disseminated in order to avoid any misinterpretations that might damage the credibility and professionalism which characterise official statistics. If any such action or omission should occur, either deliberately or by neglect or ignorance, an official statement shall be issued indicating the correct use of the published data.*

9.11. Is access to micro-data allowed for research purposes and is subject to specific rules or protocols?

*9.11. The following microdata bases are available for free use and processing of all users: 2001 and 2010 Population Census; 2003/2015 Permanent Household Survey; Annual Survey of Urban Households; 2012/2013, 2004/2005 and 1996/1997 Household Expenditure Survey.*

*This will be continuously updated each time the data processing stage of each operation ends.*

9.12. Where a pricing policy exists for specific services or custom-designed products, are the conditions of sale clearly communicated?

9.12. Pursuant to Decree 3110/70, the Director of INDEC has the legal powers to determine the prices of special works and publications.

The [new price chart of publications](#), as of 25 January 2017 (Annexe III of resolution 554/06, updated by [Resolution 21/17](#)) is available. Annexe IV of such resolution can also be consulted: [Calculation of the cost of special works for third parties](#). It does not allow for payment with credit and debit cards or in foreign currencies, since the current National Accounting Act, the framework for these activities, does not consider these possibilities.

The conditions of sale are public and available in the [web page](#), which also includes the complete catalogue of available publications. These products can be acquired by several means, including at the Institute, via download of the purchase form, among others.

The protocol for dissemination policies established in the Style Manual [https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/manual\\_estilo\\_indec\\_06\\_18.pdf](https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/manual_estilo_indec_06_18.pdf) states:

Printed publications and supplementary services, such as special works and services entailing additional expenses, have a fixed cost which is informed before processing the request. Price setting for publications and special works is ruled by Act 554/2006 and its modification, Act 21/2017.

9.13. Is educational material developed with the aim to enhance the use of official statistics and to avoid their misuse and misinterpretation?

9.13. Different programs and approaches are employed to enhance the use of official statistics and to avoid their misuse and misinterpretation. Firstly, there is a process of redesign of an exchange programme aimed at the primary and secondary education community which, currently, is done by dissemination meetings on specific topics of interest in a limited number of educational establishments (<https://www.indec.gob.ar/atencionausuarios.asp>).

The project “Promoting dissemination and friendly access to statistics” is included in Strategic objective III Design and implement activities related to statistical literacy of the Institute’s users: INDEC EDUCA within Strategic pillar 4, on the promotion of dissemination and friendly access to statistics, of the [2018-2020 Work Programme](#).

The series *Notas al Pie*, with its first number, [What is the Consumer Price Index?](#) (also available in [‘](#)) opened a new channel of communication with the general public, with plain language and colourful illustrations on the indicators that have a major impact on the daily lives of the citizens. The second edition (expanded and updated to include national coverage) is currently available in [Spanish](#) and will be available in English in 2018.

Another example is the compilation of the basic menu of main indicators, which is available at [https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/indicadores\\_coyuntura\\_fichas\\_07\\_17.pdf](https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/publicaciones/indicadores_coyuntura_fichas_07_17.pdf). It is made available to all university courses related to statistics.

The online publication of a bilingual dictionary of statistical terms, the [INDECcionario](#), is in the same educational direction, as well as the gradual inclusion of statistical content in social media, aimed at expanding the audience: @INDECArgentina on Twitter; on [Facebook](#), INDEC Argentina on [Instagram](#) and on [Youtube](#).

The project “Expanding access via social media and online response service” is included in Strategic objective I Promote and guarantee the dissemination of statistics through digital platforms within Strategic pillar 4, on the promotion of dissemination and friendly access to statistics, of the [2018-2020 Work Programme](#).



Additionally, the DNDC publishes specific dissemination content, as established in the work plan of the General Directorate, specially to inform about great operations to update statistical infrastructure. Such is the case of information microsities on the Survey of Household Income and Expenditure, currently being field-tested, (<https://www.indec.gob.ar/engho>) or the next National Agricultural Census (<https://cna2018.indec.gob.ar>).

The project “Accessible and interactive digital platforms” is included in Strategic objective 1 Promote and guarantee the dissemination of statistics through digital platforms within Strategic pillar 4, on the promotion of dissemination and friendly access to statistics, of the [2018-2020 Work Programme](#).

9.14. Are official statistics released in machine-readable form (‘open data’) that encourage reuse and analyses.

9.14. All data produced by INDEC is available at [www.indec.gob.ar](http://www.indec.gob.ar). Users can freely consult and download information from this site. In this way, open and simultaneous data access is guaranteed, in accordance with international good practice recommendations and the National Law of Access to Information 27275. Regarding the open data policy to which the Institute adheres, reading and reuse formats are progressively included and will be completed once the process of complete renewal of the web page, which is in its conceptual design stages, is completed, and that is part of the institutional strengthening programme in agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank.

The project “Accessible and interactive digital platforms” is included in Strategic objective 1 Promote and guarantee the dissemination of statistics through digital platforms within Strategic pillar 4, on the promotion of dissemination and friendly access to statistics, of the [2018-2020 Work Programme](#).

The project “Adaptation to Law on right of access to public information” is included in Strategic objective Strengthening transparency in dissemination within Strategic pillar 4, on the promotion of dissemination and friendly access to statistics, of the [2018-2020 Work Programme](#).

The project “Integral revision of the Institute’s website” is included in Strategic objective 1 Promote and guarantee the dissemination of statistics through digital platforms within Strategic pillar 4, on the promotion of dissemination and friendly access to statistics, of the [2018-2020 Work Programme](#).

**Section 10. Establish responsibilities for co-ordination<sup>4</sup> of statistical activities within the NSS. To this end, OECD Members and non-Members adhering to this recommendation should ensure that:**

- i) the co-ordination of statistical activities among statistical producers is done through the use of standard concepts and classifications and avoids the duplication of effort;**
- ii) responsibilities for such co-ordination function are clearly laid out and anchored in statistical legislation or regulation.**

Questions related to section 10:

10.1. Are the role and responsibilities of all producers of statistics clearly determined by law? Is a co-ordinator of the NSS, such as the NSO, also designated by law?

10.1. The role and responsibilities of all statistics producers are determined by the present Law 17622, Decree 3110/70 and Decree 1831/93. This legal framework establishes INDEC as the head of the National Statistical System, and its main responsibilities of unifying guidance and exerting higher

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<sup>4</sup> Co-ordination of the National Statistical System refers to the organisational unit responsible for implementing an administrative regulation (or group or regulations), for which the corresponding record of units and the transactions are viewed as a source of statistical data.

*management of all official statistical activities of the country and of structuring, through articulation and coordination, the national, provincial and municipal statistical services based on the principle of normative centralisation and executive decentralisation.*

*Executive decentralisation of statistical procedures across the NSS requires strong INDEC supervision activities enforced by legal agreements with the provinces. INDEC supervision of national statistical operations is based on regular evaluation of the technical capacities of provincial offices, establishing guidelines for statistical operations, training policies that ensure the quality of the technical work carried out by provincial personnel and monitoring and steering fieldwork activities.*

10.2. Has the designated co-ordinator responsibility to co-ordinate the statistical activities of official producers in the NSS and to represent the NSS as a whole? This concerns in particular the use of appropriate statistical concepts and procedures, the implementation of international standards and efforts to minimise duplications in data collection, production and dissemination of official statistics.

*10.2. Yes. As mentioned in the previous item, INDEC has the responsibility, by law, of articulating and coordinating the national, provincial and municipal statistical services based on the principle of normative centralisation and executive decentralisation and of representing the NSS as a whole (See Section 1.)*

10.3. Are procedures, mechanisms, tools, guidelines, or agreements in place to ensure effective co-ordination within the NSS? Examples of such tools and procedures include:

- Establishment of a national statistics plan.
- Co-ordinated data dissemination, e.g. through a single data portal.
- Assistance with implementation of international standards and classification.
- Common quality management processes.

*10.3. Currently, the Institute is rebuilding the coordination mechanisms and relations with the rest of the NSS. Regarding mechanisms for coordination and monitoring at the sub-national level, legal partnership agreements with provincial Governments have been undertaken and are currently including new clauses regarding compliance with statistical good practice, professional independence and technical expertise for fieldwork personnel along with INDEC'S ownership of statistical products.*

*Recently, an institutional change in INDEC's structure has been implemented through Administrative Decision 305/2017. As a result, the NSS coordination activity by INDEC has been reinforced both by the former Directorate of the NSS obtaining a higher rank as a National Directorate and by creating 6 Regional Offices to be established across the country in order to enhance INDEC's presence throughout the national territory and coordination within the NSS. Its aims include systematic and continuous supervising and monitoring of the statistical activities carried out by the provinces' statistical bodies more effectively.*

*Regional Offices are INDEC offices run by INDEC personnel. Three offices have already been established (NOA, NEA and Patagonia) and three more will be established by the end of 2018 (GBA, Pampeana and Cuyo).*

*National plenary meetings with Provincial Statistics Offices are also implemented for strategic planning and coordination of the National Statistical System.*

*Moreover, INDEC has a set of statistical principles (published on its website). In order to implement those statistical principles or a good practice code along the NSS bodies, it is necessary to previously complete the Statistical Operations Registry. As mentioned above, this is being done by means of the survey of the central bodies of the NSS (including central [RELSEN] and provincial statistical services [RELSEP]), which is published and updated on the INDEC website regularly.*

Finally, other mechanisms in place for effective coordination of the NSS include technical assistance in the planning and coordination of statistical product requirements from other governmental agencies in various areas (e.g. Victimisation, Disability, Risk Factors, International Tourism Special Surveys), among others.

10.4. Is exchange of statistical information between statistical agencies actively undertaken?

10.4. Cooperation and exchange of statistical information with other statistical services of the NSS is a regular approach. One already established means for the exchange of information within the System is carried out by the compilation of statistical information produced by other government agencies and published in INDEC's Statistical Yearbook. Also, the Statistical Operations Registry (and its publication on the INDEC website) mentioned previously is another means for the active statistical information compilation being done.

Finally, INDEC's working agenda has recently been extended to more actively involve other central bodies of the NSS for the exchange of statistical information by organising national plenary meetings. Included in these events are topics such as confidentiality, open data, anonymisation, statistical best practice (including information dissemination), quality management processes and certification. The next plenary meeting is planned for the end of the present year.

**Section 11. Commit to international co-operation. To this end, OECD Members and non-Members adhering to this recommendation should:**

- i) encourage statistical producers to achieve common goals in statistics jointly with the statistical producers in other countries and with international organisations, with a view to developing internationally comparable statistics, to designing international standards and to exchanging information on good practice.**
- ii) provide the necessary data for the OECD's reporting system and analytical work, in compliance with international statistical standards as recognised by the OECD and preferably using the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange method/standard in particular for domains with internationally agreed Data Structure Definitions (DSDs).**

Questions related to section 11:

11.1. Do the national statisticians participate actively and regularly in international expert groups, conferences and workshops?

11.1. Yes. INDEC participates actively with different organisations and in different international statistical fora, besides the various activities the Institute is developing with OECD, mainly linked to the objectives associated with INDEC's institutional strengthening and statistical capacity.

At a global level, the Institute participates in periodic meetings of the United Nations Statistical Commission and several working groups, conferences, seminars and training workshops on numerous topics presented by the United Nations Statistics Division and various organisations and specialised agencies. A relevant example is INDEC's participation in the High-Level Group for Partnership, Cooperation and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - HLG- PCCB. Within this participation, Argentina is part of the working subgroup on a more efficient statistical system in the United Nations. Another relevant example is that, since 2018, Argentina is also participating in the Friends of the Chair Group on the "Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics".

As part of G20 presidency in 2018, the Government of Argentina welcomed the G20 Thematic Workshop on RPPIs/CPPIs, held in Buenos Aires on 29-30 January 2018. The workshop was organised jointly by INDEC, the IMF, the BIS, the OECD and Eurostat as part of the work programme to advance

*implementation of Recommendations II.17 on Residential Property Price Indices (RPPIs) and II.18 on Commercial Property Price Indices (CPPIs) of the Second Phase of the G20 Data Gaps Initiative (DGI-2), as discussed at the June 2017 DGI Global Conference.*

*The event also provided an opportunity to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of INDEC, where an International Statistical Conference was performed. Many high-level authorities of international statistical organisations attended the event.*

*The IMF assists and cooperates with INDEC in the revision of the methodology of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the National Accounts. Between late January and early February 2018, an IMF course on Statistics of Balance of Payments and International Investment Position was held in Buenos Aires.*

*In the regional sphere, INDEC participates in the annual meetings of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (SCA-ECLAC), in specific conferences and in 12 of the 15 working groups of the SCA. It is worth mentioning that, until the end of 2015, INDEC only participated in 7 regional groups.*

*Additionally, INDEC actively participates in the Statistical Coordination Group (GCE, for its Spanish acronym) for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean. The aim of this group is to coordinate the production and implementation of the regional indicators and development of capacities for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Latin America and the Caribbean.*

*INDEC also participates in biannual meetings of the Specialised Statistical Meeting of MERCOSUR (REES, for its Spanish acronym) and the 5 work groups of the REES and coordinates 2 of the groups.*

11.2. Do the National Statistical Authorities participate in joint projects with other countries to share development burden?

*11.2. In addition to what was specified above, the Institute is also driven towards generating bilateral projects with countries within and outside the region in order to share experiences, both in statistical processes and in management of the organisation. In this way, there is a flow of discussions and different types of cooperation with possibilities of collaborative work through agreements and cooperation methods with Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Denmark, France, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Russia, Sweden, and the United States.*

*An agreement was signed with the European Statistical Agency (Eurostat) on 7 March 2018 at the United Nations Statistical Commission's (UNSC) 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting. This agreement included collaboration in the following topics: statistical planning, dissemination of statistics and exchange of data (SDMX) and the quality framework.*

*During the 49<sup>th</sup> UNSC, Argentina also signed an agreement with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) to exchange experiences and technical cooperation regarding the management of human resources and other ICT developments for large statistical operations.*

*Recently, at the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the OECD Committee for Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP) an agreement was also signed with the Italian National Institute for Statistics (ISTAT) to cooperate in, among others, the modernisation of programmes, the institutional and organisational aspects of National Statistical System coordination, integration of data sources and statistical planning.*

*Regarding south-south cooperation practices, in February 2017, the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs defined the cooperation to be followed between INDEC and Honduras National Statistics Institute. The objective of the two-year cooperation plan is to generate price and quantities indices of foreign trade in Honduras. The project is executed within the framework of the Argentine Fund for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (FOAR). During 2017 and 2018, five technical missions were held with the objective that the NSI of Honduras will be able to achieve reliable foreign trade indices by the end of 2018.*

11.3. Do the Heads of NSOs or their staff chair international statistical bodies?

*11.3. Yes. Within the work framework of the High-Level Group for Partnership, Cooperation and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development HLG-PCCB, INDEC was co-chair of the Programming Committee of the First World Data Forum (Cape Town, 16-18 January 2017).*

*Related to the Specialised Statistical Meeting of MERCOSUR (REES), Argentina assumed the pro tempore presidency (PTP) of REES and celebrated its twelfth meeting in Buenos Aires from 16 to 17 May 2017. The meeting was preceded by a Seminar related to SDG indicators on 15 May 2017.*

11.4. Do the National Statistical Authorities participate in the main international statistical fora to exchange on their statistical practices, to participate in research and conceptual work and to contribute actively to the definition and design of international norms and statistical standards?

*11.4. Yes. The Director-General of the Institute and other national directors actively participate in different regional and international fora. The Director-General of INDEC has presented in the Regional Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean: Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics (Santiago de Chile, 14-16 September 2016); and participated as speaker in the last Conference of the International Association for Official Statistics (Abu Dhabi, 6-8 December 2016).*

*In addition, other INDEC authorities participate in different regional and international organisations and fora for research, definition and design of international standards for official statistics.*

*For example, during July 2017, INDEC participated in the 61st Meeting of the ISI that took place in Morocco. Argentina made a presentation on "The main challenges related to the rebuilding of INDEC in the Republic of Argentina".*

11.5. Is access to micro-data by international organisations explored as a mean to reduce the burden of countries responding to questionnaires?

*11.5. The standardised metadata system by international organisations has not been used. However, the website of the Institute currently includes the Statistical Services and Operations Survey: <http://www.indec.gob.ar/sen.asp>.*

*The information from each operation is: statistical service (SE, for its Spanish acronym), executive unit, topic, objective of the statistical operation, manner of data collection, studied population, geographical coverage, level of geographical disaggregation, start date of the statistical operation, type of dissemination, availability of information, website where information is published and methodology.*

*Additionally, INDEC provides data and metadata for indicators that are disseminated through the IMF DSBB following the Fund's standards.*

11.6. Do the National Statistical Authorities provide complete and timely answers to the questionnaires of international organisations?

*11.6. Yes. The Institute delivers the answers to questionnaires in a complete and timely fashion.*

11.7. Do the producers of official statistics use modern statistical and IT tools, such as SDMX<sup>5</sup> for the regular transmission of data and metadata to international organisations, notably the OECD?

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<sup>5</sup> Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) refers to an initiative to foster standards for the exchange of statistical information, sponsored by the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), the European Central Bank (ECB), the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the OECD, the United Nations (UN) and the World Bank.

11.7. No (See also Section 9.7.)

**Section 12. Encourage exploring innovative methods as well as new and alternative data sources as inputs for official statistics, and in particular encourage statistical agencies to actively explore possibilities to use new data sources (including large datasets owned by the private sector) or to combine existing and new data sources as input for official statistics. At the same time, these opportunities are weighted against the limits of using modern information technologies and the need to maintain the quality of official statistics.**

Questions related to section 12:

12.1. Do the National Statistical Authorities actively encourage and undertake research on new sources and new methods for official statistics, including in the private sector and through combination of existing sources?

*12.1. The Institute is developing a joint policy with other national bodies to organise, develop and implement an infrastructure for the utilisation of available alternative data sources of different origins which are not currently related.*

*The Institute is working with various national and foreign bodies to identify and include common platforms to improve and exchange information (i.e. BCRA).*

*Along these lines, there are meetings with institutions such as Eurostat, INEGI (Mexico), CBS (Netherlands), and others, in which methodology has been shared and technological recommendations have been made. These institutional relations are supported by participation agreements signed between INDEC and peer institutes.*

12.2. Do the National Statistical Authorities develop methodological work and IT infrastructure to ensure the quality of official statistics when new and alternative data sources are used as input?

*12.2 The Institute normally develops procedures each time new information sources are used. Additionally, INDEC is working on processes to guarantee the quality of official statistics by means of IT infrastructure.*

12.3. Is an explicit policy formulated towards the use of “Big Data<sup>6</sup>” and private data that considers legal, technical and methodological implications?

*12.3 The answers to sections 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 give a full picture of the legislative and regulation framework that establishes and protects statistical secrecy and involves socioeconomic, sanitation, patrimonial and other data.*

*To complement this, it is worth mentioning that the Republic of Argentina has in place a legal system that is intended for the protection of individual data such as files, records, databases, and any other technical treatment of data, public or private. This is specified in Law 25326, which recognises Art 43 of our Constitution as its regulatory antecedent and direct source, and of course considering international treaties included in our Constitution (Art 75, Section 22). <http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/60000-64999/64790/norma.htm>).*

*Currently, the Institute does not have a complete methodological policy for the use of big data in addition to what is included in Law 17622.*

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<sup>6</sup> **Big data** refer to data sources that can be generally described as high volume, velocity, and variety of data that demand cost-effective, innovative forms of processing for enhanced insight and decision making.

*The Institute is exploring the use of big data technology for the creation of a data lake originating from current and historic statistical operations. To this effect, there is a team within the Informatics Directorate to map the requirements of directorates.*

12.4. Are implications for statistical infrastructure, statistical methods, and analytical tools systematically assessed?

*12.4. When resorting to new statistical methods or analytical tools, the Institute designs evaluation methods to measure the implications on statistical production.*

12.5. Are there explicit agreements between producers of official statistics and owners of private data; and legislation which regulate access to this information and deal with privacy issues?

*12.5. Currently, the Institute has not signed explicit agreements with private data-owners and statistics producers.*

12.6. Do the National Statistical Authorities participate in the development of capabilities to process geospatial data?

*12.6. The Institute is especially dedicated to the development of capacities for processing geospatial data. To this end, there is a geostatistics area that maintains a close relationship with the main official bodies that develop geospatial infrastructure of the territory units of the country and the standards for their use.*

*The participation of INDEC in the development of capacities to process geospatial data includes:*

*Development of a set of statistical activities within its functions: planning, organising and leading, by assignment or contract, and in turn, training staff in management of cartographic documents and geospatial data.*

*Membership of the National Disaster Risk Management system, which provides statistical information associated with geospatial information, expressed in thematic maps.*

*In the context of the preparation of the 2017 National Agriculture Census and the 2020 National Census of Population and Housing, INDEC uses technology to develop cartographic documents, collect geospatial data in field, implement automated segmentation and disseminate information; and has signed an agreement with the Argentine National Space Commission (CONAE) in order to access information from satellite images.*

*Finally, INDEC has a repository of geospatial data from different statistical activities that it performs.*