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# Economic statistics

The work of the economic statistics team at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) includes the promotion of and access to internationally comparable data that relate to agricultural investments, prices, and public expenditure; aid flows to agriculture; and sectoral macro indicators. The aim is to contribute to the analyses of agricultural trends and economic policies, including activities with regard to food production.

The work of the economic statistics team contributes significantly to FAO's strategic objectives to enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems.

## Area of work

The work of the economic statistics team focuses on the following areas:

- > Investment statistics, particularly relating to agricultural public spending based on Indicator 2.a.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Agriculture Orientation Index for Government Expenditures); development flows to agriculture; agricultural credit; and foreign direct investment.
- > Price statistics, especially producer price indices, consumer prices, and related Indices and exchange rates.
- > Macroeconomic statistics, specifically in terms of indicators relating to agriculture, implicit price deflators, capital stock, and capital formation.
- > FAO's aid statistics based on the classification of the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).





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- > Support interdivisional coordination and collaboration within FAO with regard to its commitment to publishing, on a quarterly basis, the aid activities of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

## Key products by statistical function

### Data collection and dissemination

- > Update FAOSTAT domains relating to macroeconomic statistics on the contribution of agriculture to economic growth, gross value added, capital formation and capital stocks, and implicit price deflators.
- > Update FAOSTAT domains relating to agricultural Investments such as agricultural public expenditures, credit to agriculture, foreign direct investment and development aid flows to agriculture.
- > Update FAOSTAT domains relating to producer prices, consumer prices and exchange rates.
- > Data on FAO aid flows for inclusion in OECD's CRS.
- > Data on SDG 2.1.a (Agriculture Orientation Index for Government Expenditure) for international reporting.

### Methodological work

- > Improve and refine estimation methods, as well as those processing and analyses mechanisms adopted for the preparation of statistics relating to investment finance and prices, as well as macro statistics.
- > Development of methodologies to enable the coding of FAO's regular programme activities and to revise the ODA's coefficient, including the development of internal guidelines to enable CRS purpose and sector coding.

### Capacity development

- > Training and technical assistance to member countries to adopt, produce, interpret, and apply SDG Indicator 2.a.1.
- > Technical assistance to countries in their effort to collect data on agricultural capital formation, providing sub-sector details relating to crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, and forestry.
- > Support to worldwide FAOSTAT data users of domains maintained by the economic statistics team, including the underlying methodologies.

## Core objectives

- > Collect and disseminate economic statistics related to the agriculture activities and the context in which they operate. This includes macroeconomic statistics from member countries, in particular relating to gross value added, capital stock, capital formation, and implicit price deflators; it also includes statistics on agricultural investment and the development of investment profiles, as well as statistics on prices relevant for agriculture producers and food consumers.
- > Develop methodologies to estimate economic indicators relevant for agriculture, SDG Indicator 2.a.1 (Agriculture Orientation Index for Government Expenditure) of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- > Collaborate with international development agencies, such as EUROSTAT, International Monetary Fund, OECD, and United Nations Statistics Division in order to harmonize the data collection process and reduce the burden on responding countries.
- > Support countries in their effort to strengthen their statistical capacities in the production of economic statistics, in particular SDG Indicator 2.a.1.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

- > Economic statistics website:  
[www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-economic/gdpagriculture](http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-economic/gdpagriculture)

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