



CANADA

**Statistics Canada - Institutional Arrangements
For Effective Coordination of Agricultural And
Rural Statistics**

Overview of National Statistical System (NSS)

- Statistics Canada (STC) is a centralized statistical office
- Agriculture and rural statistics responsibilities
 - STC – all government surveys and censuses and all intercensal surveys with no exceptions
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada – administrative data on fish from regulatory and enforcement programs
 - Natural Resources Canada - administrative data on forestry from regulatory and enforcement programs
 - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 - agriculture estimates with future reference dates (all forecasts and projections)
 - administrative data from regulatory and enforcement programs (food, pesticides and other chemicals)
 - Customs and Border Services – administrative data

Highlights of legislation

Statistics Canada (NSO) has sole authority to conduct surveys to collect, compile, analyze, abstract and publish statistical information

- authority is never delegated
- no estimates with future reference dates *no projections*
no forecasts

Coverage

- All sectors no restrictions
- Surveys and censuses and access to all administrative data (including tax, vital statistics etc)

Line-Ministries have the authority and an obligation to publish their administrative data collected as part of their regulatory responsibilities but may not conduct statistical surveys

Legislation

Statistics Canada

“3. There shall continue to be a statistics bureau under the Minister, to be known as Statistics Canada, the duties of which are

- (a) to collect, compile, analyze, abstract and publish statistical information relating to the commercial, industrial, financial, social, economic and general activities and condition of the people;
- (b) to collaborate with departments of government in the collection, compilation and publication of statistical information, including statistics derived from the activities of those departments;
- (c) to take the census of population of Canada and the census of agriculture of Canada as provided in this Act;
- (d) to promote the avoidance of duplication in the information collected by departments of government; and
- (e) generally, to promote and develop integrated social and economic statistics pertaining to the whole of Canada and to each of the provinces thereof and to coordinate plans for the integration of those statistics.”

Data integration includes

Economic statistics sector obligations to supply data requirements of the System of the National Accounts (Income, Expenditure, Production, Balance of Payments, Quarterly GDP, input-Output and *Environment a satellite account*)

Using a combination of administrative and survey data to produce SUA's (imports and exports, stocks, production, feed, seed, waste, processor use, consumption + error)

Substitution of tax filer data for household or enterprise survey data, monthly meat inspection data from the Government regulatory programs as a substitute for slaughter survey data

Identifying the changing needs of data users

- National Statistics Council (advisor to Chief Statistician)
- Professional Advisory Committee for Agriculture Statistics
- Federal - Provincial - Territorial Committee on Agriculture Statistics
- Bilateral relationships with Federal Departments
- Special statistical program

Canada's strategic planning and funding processes

- Treasury Board (members of the Government) make the decisions on priorities and funding, everyone else, makes recommendations
- All Ministries and Agencies submit a recommendation of their proposed “work and budget” to Treasury Board at the start of each year and also identify:
 - in order of priority, the lowest 10% of their programs – STC statistical programs, identified as possible cuts
 - unfunded statistical priorities – STC data gaps (eg. Farm financial or cost of production data, agricultural production under glass)

Best practices on effective coordination

- National Statistics Council (advisor to Chief Statistician)
- Professional Advisory Committee for Agriculture Statistics
- Federal – Provincial - Territorial Committee on Agriculture Statistics
- Bilateral relationships with Federal Departments (funding and support for funding)
- Special program reviews

(processes and procedures are necessary but not sufficient to ensure success, effective coordination also requires commitment from each and every person involved)

Current Issues and challenges

- Reduced independence for the Chief Statistician
- Reduced independence for statistical methodology
- Funding, budget, and program reductions
- Need to redefine and reduce list of “core statistics”
- Shrinking sample sizes increasing cv’s
- Increasing reliance on administrative data
- Encouraging Line Ministries to use standard

Thank You

Merci