Cross-cutting and managerial issues

Ongoing and upcoming activities

Country practices

Share your experience

Activities

Ongoing:

- The Executive Board of High-Level Group for Modernisation of Official Statistics and its Blue-Skies Thinking Network established a protected digital space where its members share their views and experiences regarding the response to the crisis in their organizations.
- Facilitating knowledge exchange in the expert community within existing activities (e.g. on usage of mobile data).

Upcoming:

During the 68th plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) (22-24 June 2020), the chief statisticians of all CES member countries, will discuss:

- **Impact of COVID-19 crisis on official statistics** - jointly with the OECD Committee for Statistics and Statistical Policy (OECD CSSP):
  - Data stewardship – new roles of NSOs in the changing world (organized by UNECE)
  - Impact of Covid-19 crises on business continuity of official statistics (organized by OECD)

- **Using geospatial data and tools for measuring COVID-19 impact** - jointly with UN-GGIM: Europe

Country practices

The examples below illustrate how NSOs deal with the challenges of continuing their operations during the COVID-19 crisis.

The main sources of information are: (1) a special survey carried out by the UNECE Task Force on Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters (and follow-up communication with NSOs), (2) the UNSD COVID-19 response website, (3) NSOs' websites and (4) information provided directly by NSO.

Examples on crisis communications during COVID-19 are available on the dedicated page under Strategic Communications Framework.

For updates and adding of information please leave a comment at the bottom of the page or contact Malgorzata Cwiek.
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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| Australia     | Consumers and data suppliers management | ABS COVID response webpage Australian Statistician's Briefing to the Australian Business Economists | ABS has created three webpages dedicated to COVID-19 response:  
  - a webpage dedicated to all ABS COVID-19 statistical products  
  - a webpage with information for survey respondents  
  - a webpage summarizing ABS COVID-19 response with links to both webpages above, statements of the Australian Statistician and media releases.  
  On 30 April, the Australian Statistician gave a briefing to the Australian Business Economists on:  
  - how ABS has responded to the changed world  
  - how ABS arrived at the suite of outputs they had released over the previous month  
  - how ABS had transformed the way they do things to embrace new, rapid response surveys to give governments and the community the most up-to-date statistics possible, and  
  - how ABS data can help decision-makers navigate the uncertain economic terrain over the coming months. | 3      | 11 May 2020 |
| Australia     | Statistical production    | ABS COVID-19 statistical products Australian Statistician's Briefing to the Australian Business Economists | The ABS is committed to delivering timely and accurate information about the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on Australian society and the economy.  
  The ABS is producing a range of existing and new statistical products, providing relevant insights on households, employment and industry to inform government, business and community responses to the pandemic. A dedicated task force has been established to identify and secure new data sources to supplement the production of existing ABS products, address emerging policy questions and data needs in response to COVID-19, and deliver novel and innovative products in the future.  
  New statistical releases will provide information on:  
  - Business impacts such as cash flow and turnover  
  - Additional monthly analysis on hours worked, including reasons for working less hours, and quarterly hours worked analysis by industry  
  - Preliminary retail turnover data  
  - Interactive employment maps  
  - Preliminary import and export data  
  - COVID-related employment and health implications for households  
  - Additional analysis of short term overseas visitors and international students  
  - Interactive age and health conditions population maps  
  - Confidentialised microdata for Australian businesses will be made available for researchers through TableBuilder so they can produce tables, graphs and maps. | 3      | 11 May 2020 |
| Australia     | Statistical production    | Protecting the health of staff and respondents, while ensuring the business continuity | ABS is protecting the health of its staff and respondents, while ensuring the ongoing operating capacity.  
  By mid-March, given the risks associated with travel and gatherings in confined spaces, ABS reduced the number of agencies and individuals attending lock-ups for market sensitive statistics. ABS also suspended surveys that required close face-to-face contact, including those within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, to protect vulnerable populations.  
  Some of the regular activities were paused to free up resources to ensure the key economic series weren’t at risk, or to make way for the collection of COVID-19-related data. Critical teams were identified, and surge capacity and shadow teams put in place to keep production processes going in the event that infection rates of ABS staff rose to critical levels. | 3      | 11 May 2020 |
| France        | Statistical production    | Impact of COVID-19 on national statistical production (press releases of 16 March and 25 March) and a dedicated COVID-19 web page | INSEE has been complying with the confinement and has been able to ensure continuity of its mission through teleworking. This required redefining priorities and adapting certain operation to the new conditions. INSEE informs about the impact of the COVID-19 on its work through press releases and a dedicated web page.  
  Registrars: INSEE assured the public about that it will continue to maintain the population register and the business register which are under its responsibility.  
  Surveys: INSEE carries household surveys exclusively by phone or online if possible (employment survey and living conditions survey). ICT survey will not be carried out in 2020. Replies already provided by companies online will be preserved but there will be no reminders and no legal consequences of non-response. Certain large companies whose responses are indispensable can be contacted.  
  Statistical production: INSEE aims to ensure the continuity of the production of national accounts. The provisional annual accounts for 2019 should be published as planned. The publication of trimestral accounts for first and second trimester 2020 may not follow the usual calendar, in particular the first estimate, which is scheduled 90 days after the end of each trimester.  
  INSEE will continue to publish according to the usual calendar (or almost) all the main economic indicators, including monthly industrial production index, telecom employment figures and monthly price index. Additional analysis of short term overseas visitors and international students, population and population maps.  
  Confidentialised microdata for Australian businesses will be made available for researchers through TableBuilder so they can produce tables, graphs and maps. | 4      | 4 May 2020  |
| Netherlands   | Statistical production    | A dedicated website Coronavirus crisis: CBS figures | Statistics Netherlands created a dedicated website with CBS figures on COVID-19 impacts on economy, society, public health, public mobility and supply chains, and related news articles. | 4      | 4 May 2020  |
| Netherlands   | Statistical production    | Measuring article stockpiling with scanner data | On 24 March, Statistics Netherlands published an analysis on article stockpiling based on weekly transaction data. | 4      | 4 May 2020  |
| Netherlands   | Consumers and data suppliers management | Message to users of CBS data and those providing data to CBS | On 26 March, Statistics Netherlands published a message to users of CBS data and those providing data to CBS that:  
  - Explained in simple terms how the COVID-19 outbreak affects the operations of Statistics Netherlands  
  - Assured about their continued efforts to maintain the production of statistics at the highest possible level  
  - Underlined the importance of reliable data during a crisis for various stakeholders and the need to continue the data collection  
  - Thanked in advance those who provide the data for their collaboration under the difficult circumstances. | 4      | 4 May 2020  |
| Netherlands   | Strategy and leadership  | Interview with CBS Acting Director General Bert Kroese on reliable data in times of corona and beyond | On 22 April, Statistics Netherlands published an interview with CBS Acting Director General Bert Kroese, who further explained the impacts of the outbreak on the CBS work, importance of reliable, timely data and the need for continued collaboration between the Dutch national and municipal authorities, the academic world and the business community during the crisis and beyond. | 4      | 4 May 2020  |
### Italy
**Statistical production**
**Actions to ensure continuity of statistical production, a special internal task force**

Due to measures adopted by the government to contain the virus, Istat has implemented a series of actions to ensure the continuity and quality of statistical production even in this emergency situation. The institute has reorganized data collection by sustainable acquisition techniques, innovative methodologies and use of data sources; it also provided most appropriate solutions to support statistical production processes in full protection of workers' health. Official statistics are fundamental for measuring the economy and society; their production and dissemination at the service of institutions, policy makers, families and businesses, therefore, cannot be stopped, but need to be rethinked to be ready to provide the country with all necessary answers, and above all to support and monitor the future country's recovery. Istat has long invested in dematerialization and can therefore ensure full operation of its databases and accessible online services. A special internal task force is dedicated to organize and manage the impact of pandemic on the statistical activities. It caused the stop of some survey and the postponing of others. Istat is working using “agile works” and all the workers are connected and are working as usual. Web meeting tools are very often used. A special part of the internal website is well-organized containing all the necessary information.

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<td>Full operation of the databases and accessible online services</td>
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### Australia
**Statistical production**
**Impacts on the work programme**

The ABS is providing a range of additional, up-to-date information to enhance understanding of the social and economic impacts of COVID-19, including new information relating to the Australian Labour Market. In order that the ABS can continue to deliver official economic and social statistics during this time, it has made some changes to some elements of the ABS Forward Work Program.

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### Mexico
**Statistical production**
**No interruption of production and publication of short-term economic indicators and maintaining information quality standards**

The main challenge is not to interrupt the production and publication of short-term economic indicators and maintain information quality standards. In case of the production of short-term economic statistics, we anticipate problems in surveying and in the imputation methods of missing data, as well as the temporary or definitive suspension of some businesses in certain industries. The main challenges for the price indices are:

- Preserving the quality and reliability of the data.

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### Germany
**Statistical production**
**Biggest challenges at the moment**

Monitoring of company responses and the share of estimation: Due to the difficulties experienced by companies during the pandemic, non-responses are expected. As far as possible, this is compensated by utilizing estimates, accepting a higher error tolerance and reducing the publication depth. The present situation is particularly difficult for many companies, public authorities and private individuals obliged to report data for the production of official statistics. We are nevertheless asking for the submission of data via the familiar electronic transmission channels. If data is not accessible, this data will help to pro-vide politicians and administrative authorities with the basic information they need to decide on measures for coping with the crisis.

**Contributions by other public authorities:**
Important contributions by other public authorities might be missing, because they are also affected by the disease.

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### Turkey
**Statistical production**
**Data compilation issues**

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Do you have questions or want to share your experience? Let us know in the comments below

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