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عاماً
YEARS



المهيئة العامة للإحصاء
General Authority for Statistics

Statistics Law



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Article 1:

In this Law, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

- **Law:** Statistics Law.

Regulations: Implementing Regulations of the Law.

- **Authority:** General Authority for Statistics.
- **Board:** Board of Directors of the Authority.
- **Public Entities:** Ministries as well as public agencies, institutions, and authorities, including companies wholly owned by the State.
- **Private Establishments:** Companies, including those in which the State is a shareholder, sole proprietorships, civil society associations and organizations, and the like.
- **Individuals:** Natural persons who are required, for statistical purposes, to provide the Authority with data about themselves, other individuals, or their activities.
- **Statistics:** Data, information, and indicators that are collected on the circumstances and activities of society using scientific methods, classifications, and concepts to reach findings, projections, and decisions based on specific variables.
- **Users:** Natural or legal persons who benefit from statistics.
- **Census:** The process of collecting data and information or counting using the complete enumeration method of a population or a specific community.
- **Official Statistics:** Quantitative or qualitative information or indicators issued by the Authority in the statistical fields.
- **Statistical Fields:** The three main statistical fields, which are social statistics, including demographics, social conditions, education, housing, etc.; economic statistics, including national accounts, businesses, industry, commerce, technology, etc.; and spatial statistics, including the environment, tourism, agriculture, etc.
- **Data:** Numbers and descriptive characteristics relating to statistical fields and the circumstances and activities of society, whether as individual data or as a set of individual data.
- **Individual Data:** Data identifying a natural or legal person and provided upon request.
- **Metadata:** Information that describes statistical data and processes in a standardized manner by providing information on data sources, methods, definitions, and classifications.

- **Information:** Data that are processed by tabulation, analysis, summarization, or any other processing method to become statistically meaningful.
- **Indicators:** Measures that represent the statistical data of a specific period of time and a specific location as well as other specific parameters.
- **Surveys:** The process of collecting data from their sources based on a set of predetermined questions or variables, whether through the complete enumeration method, statistical sampling methods and techniques, or any other statistical method.
- **Statistical Work:** Any study, research, survey, or poll, including any work related to statistical fields, whether in whole or in part.
- **Administrative Records:** Paper or electronic records in which data and information relating to statistical fields and the circumstances and activities of society are documented at public entities and private establishments as well as records of the production processes of such entities and establishments.
- **Statistical Services:** Activities that are part of or related to statistical work, including the provision of consultations on the design of surveys, research, and studies, the selection of samples, the analysis and interpretation of results, and the like.
- **Publication:** Making official statistics, statistical analyses and services, and metadata available to all users.

Article 2:

This Law aims to regulate statistical work, enhance the effectiveness and comprehensiveness thereof, improve the quality of statistics in the Kingdom, and increase their role in supporting development plans and decision-making. This Law also aims to define the roles of the Authority, public entities, private establishments, and individuals; set the mechanisms for conducting statistical work and collecting data and information; and regulate the licensing and oversight of the field of statistics.

Article 3:

The Authority shall be the entity in charge of issuing, developing, and publishing official statistics in accordance with the basic principles issued by specialized international organizations as well as internationally recognized professional standards, without prejudice to the right of public entities to issue statistics related to their activities.

Article 4:

1. The Authority may, for the purpose of maintaining the quality of official statistics, verify the accuracy of data and information, consolidate data from different sources, link administrative records, and reconcile individual data, solely for statistical purposes.
2. The Authority shall document the sources and methods used in the preparation of statistics.

Article 5:

1. Public entities shall, upon conducting statistics or any survey related to their activities, adhere to the concepts, definitions, classifications, technical standards, and statistical and scientific methods adopted by the Authority or approved by specialized international organizations.
2. Public entities and the Authority shall cooperate and coordinate in monitoring and verifying all indicators published on the Kingdom, and in making corrections thereto if necessary.

Article 6:

1. The Authority shall issue the licenses necessary for commercially engaging in statistical work or providing statistical services as a principal activity. The Regulations shall specify the controls, requirements, and fees for such licenses.
2. No person may commercially engage in statistical work or provide statistical services as a principal activity without a license.

Article 7:

1. The Authority shall design and conduct censuses and publish their results for statistical purposes as follows:
 - a. A population and housing census every 10 years, the date of which shall be determined pursuant to a Council of Ministers resolution.
 - b. An economic census of establishments, the date of which shall be determined pursuant to a Board decision.
 - c. A census of agricultural establishments every five years, the date of which shall be determined pursuant to a Board decision.
2. The Authority may, for the purpose of conducting a census, collect data and information from public entities, private establishments, and individuals.
3. Participation in a census shall be mandatory for all persons included therein as determined by the Board.
4. The Chairman of the Board shall issue the decisions necessary to conduct a census.

Article 8:

1. The Authority may determine the sources of data and information based on professional considerations, and may collect the data and information necessary to perform its activities from public entities, private establishments, and individuals.
2. Public entities, private establishments, and individuals shall, at no cost, provide the Authority upon request with data and information for non-commercial statistical purposes, in accordance with the quality requirements, deadlines, methods, and formats specified in the Regulations.
3. The Authority may request any document to verify the accuracy of the data and information provided thereto.

Article 9:

1. The Authority shall prepare a calendar indicating the dates and times of issuance of official statistics; it shall update the calendar as needed and publish and announce it to the public.
2. The Authority shall, in accordance with the calendar referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article, publish official statistics and make them available to the public.
3. The Authority shall issue official statistics accompanied by metadata and explanatory notes and comments and shall make the same available to the public at no cost.
4. The Authority shall correct any error detected in the official statistics issued thereby and shall promptly publish such corrections.

Article 10:

Public entities shall cooperate with the Authority with regards to the following:

1. Preparing internationally comparable statistics.
2. Designing international standards and guidelines.
3. Exchanging information on best statistical practices.

The Regulations shall specify the controls for the cooperation of public entities with the Authority.

Article 11:

Data and information collected for statistical purposes shall be deemed confidential. Public entities, private establishments, and individuals may not have access to such data and information or be informed thereof, nor may such data and information be used for other than statistical purposes or against the provider thereof under any circumstances.

Article 12:

1. The Authority shall, for statistical, research, study, and analytical purposes, grant access to the data and information collected thereby, provided that modifications are made thereto to ensure that individual data are not revealed and personal identities are not compromised, in accordance with the Regulations.
2. The Authority's employees or others whose assistance the Authority seeks may not disclose any confidential statistical data, information, or indicators they become privy to during the course of their work.

Article 13:

Without prejudice to relevant laws, orders, and decisions, the Authority may carry out the following:

1. Seek the assistance of public entities in collecting data and information or performing certain functions, in accordance with the Regulations.
2. Contract with any natural or private legal person to conduct surveys and prepare statistics, upon ensuring the protection, confidentiality, and privacy of data and information.

Article 14:

No individual may exploit his post or his capacity under a contract to unlawfully conduct a survey or collect data or information from a public entity, private establishment, or individual, in violation of the provisions of this Law and the Regulations.

Article 15:

Without prejudice to any harsher penalty stipulated under any other law, any person who violates any of the provisions of this Law and the Regulations shall be subject to one or more of the following penalties:

1. A written warning.
2. A fine not exceeding five hundred thousand riyals.
3. Suspension of the license for a period not exceeding one year.
4. Revocation of the license.

If a license is revoked, a new license application may not be submitted prior to the lapse of at least three years from the date of the revocation decision.

Article 16:

Without prejudice to the jurisdiction of relevant agencies, Authority employees, to be appointed pursuant to a decision by the Authority's President, shall detect and record violations of the provisions of this Law and the Regulations.

Article 17:

1. A committee, or more, shall be formed pursuant to a Board decision and shall comprise not less than three members, with at least one legal advisor and one statistics specialist. The committee shall review violations of the provisions of this Law and the Regulations and shall impose the penalties stipulated in Article 15 of this Law.
2. The Board shall issue a decision specifying the work rules and procedures of the committee as well as the remuneration of its chairman and members. Said remuneration shall be paid from the Authority's budget.
3. The Board shall issue a table of the violations and their corresponding penalties, taking into consideration the nature and gravity of each violation and the aggravating and mitigating circumstances thereof as well as cases of repeat violations.
4. A person against whom a penalty decision is issued may file an appeal with the Administrative Court within 60 days from the date of being notified of the decision.

Article 18:

Any person who sustains harm as a result of a violation of the provisions of this Law and the Regulations may file a claim for compensation with the competent court for the damages resulting from the violation.

Article 19:

The Board shall issue a code of ethics for statistical work and statistical services; any person engaging in statistical work or providing statistical services must adhere to such code.

Article 20:

The Board shall issue the Regulations within 180 days from the date of publication of this Law in the Official Gazette. The Regulations shall become effective on the date this Law enters into force.

Article 21:

This Law shall supersede the State General Statistics Law issued by Royal Decree No. 23, dated 7/12/1379H, and the General Population Census Law issued by Royal Decree No. M/13, dated 23/4/1391H, and shall repeal any provisions conflicting therewith.

Article 22:

This Law shall enter into force 180 days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

