



DISSEMINATION POLICY

The Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira

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DISSEMINATION POLICY

Statistical data are a key asset in today's society, and an essential tool in supporting the most relevant decision-making processes, both at the public and private level, and in carrying out analyses and research.

The Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira (DREM) is the regional statistical authority for the production and dissemination of official statistics, whose mission is to produce and disseminate official and high-quality statistical information that can respond in an effective and independent manner to the needs of information of a Society in constant change and increasingly demanding with regard to the relevance, quality and opportunity of that same information.

Data dissemination, which is a key stage of the statistical activity, is instrumental in implementing and highlighting strict compliance with the mission of statistical authorities.

The Dissemination policy of DREM lays down the fundamental principles governing the dissemination of official statistics, directly or indirectly produced under its responsibility. It should have as main reference the applicable principles of the National Statistical System: technical independence, statistical confidentiality, impartiality and accessibility – and also the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

According to the Dissemination Plan which is available online, there are different products of DREM statistical activities, namely "In Focus" - a short statistical analysis of the published results - "Statistical Data" and "Publications".

Currently, DREM uses its Portal as the preferential channel for the dissemination of official statistical information, which is free of charge.

A - PRINCIPLES FOR THE DISSEMINATION POLICY OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

DREM dissemination policy of official statistics should set out the rules laid down in the National Statistical System's Law (Statistical Act). It should furthermore be based on the principles and good practices for official statistics adopted by the EU and the UN.

These principles apply to all official statistics produced by DREM – whether as a statistical authority or as a delegation of Statistics Portugal (INE) - regardless of being produced under any national or Community legislation or as a result of any commitment to a specific user.

1. Official statistics must be relevant for users, comprehensive and as detailed as possible in statistical terms, while complying with requirements regarding legislation, confidentiality and quality, and produced in a cost-effective way.
2. Official statistics must be accurate, reliable, consistent and comparable in space and time.
3. Official statistics must be up-to-date and disseminated in a timely and punctual manner.
4. The content and timing of statistical releases must be decided with full autonomy and technical and professional independence.
5. Official statistics must be released according to a pre-announced schedule.
6. Official statistics must be presented in a clear and understandable form to all users.
7. Statistical data must be made available on an impartial and objective basis to all users.
8. Statistical data released by DREM must comply with the principle of statistical confidentiality, under the terms of Article 6 of the Statistical Act.
9. All users must be treated equally, and any privileged pre-release access to official statistics should be duly publicised.
10. Access to official statistical data of a general nature must be provided free of charge.

B - RELEASE OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

The release of official statistics by DREM is made under the terms of the national and international, legal and ethical framework governing the production of statistics.

1. All information of general interest resulting from statistical operations contained in DREM “Annual Business Plan” is generally published.
2. The main indicators resulting from statistical activities to be disseminated are, in principle, included in the respective Methodological Document.
3. Statistical data are made available impartially and simultaneously to all users.
4. Statistical data are released autonomously and independently from any external interference.
5. The dissemination of official statistics is accompanied by the supporting metadata, as well as other information, namely on quality, in accordance with national and international criteria in order to facilitate proper interpretation by users.
6. Official statistical data released complies with the quality standards as defined for each statistical operation and included in the respective Methodological Document.
7. The content and timing of official statistical releases are, in principle, an integral part of DREM “Annual Business Plan”, which is made public and available in DREM website.
8. Statistical output is not disseminated, in part or wholly, if the quality levels set forth in the Methodological Document are not fulfilled. The decision against the dissemination of such results is made public as well the reasons for.
9. Access to statistical data may be restricted when quality levels are deemed insufficient. Should access to statistical data be restricted, users will be notified through releases thereon. On an exceptional basis, statistical data may be released only to specific user groups.
10. The dissemination schedule is established on the basis of purely technical criteria, by striking a balance between quality and timeliness.

11. Official statistical data are made available according to a pre-announced schedule.
12. The data dissemination schedule is set independently from the dissemination media used (website, dissemination database, press releases, publications, etc.). The statistical data dissemination schedule is previously announced on DREM website and easily accessible.
13. Changes to the dissemination schedule, when deemed absolutely necessary, are publicly announced in advance, as soon as materially possible, being duly accounted for. The original schedule remains public.
14. The release of statistical outputs is presented in a technically objective and impartial manner.
15. Errors when detected are recognised and documented, and the respective corrections/revisions are duly, rapidly and clearly disseminated to users.
16. Statistical output may be made available as anonymised microdata for scientific purposes, to researchers at universities or other higher education institutions and renowned scientific research organisations, institutions or departments, under the terms of Article 6 of the Statistical Act (Law No. 22/2008 of 13 May). Specific protocols will be signed for this purpose.
17. Further dissemination of statistical data produced by DREM (whether as a statistical authority or a delegation of Statistics Portugal-INE) is free of charge, provided that information be accessed free of charge, the source identified and no restrictions imposed on its access.
18. Occasionally authored studies are released. The authors are fully responsible for the opinions expressed which do not necessarily coincide with those of DREM nor will be binding on it.

C - ACCESSIBILITY TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Wide and easy access to official statistical data is a standing priority of DREM, as well as the commitment to quality improvement of the service provided. In this vein, access to statistical data is made available using modern information and communication technology in order to meet user needs and permitting easy access to information.

1. Official statistics are a public good and must meet user needs.
2. Access to statistical data is provided simultaneously to all users.

3. Access to official statistics is free of charge.
4. An exception to the previous point is in the case of information requests of national data not available on Statistics Portugal's website and that can require data treatment. These requests will be forwarded to Statistics Portugal, which may charge the user according to the price list, available in its website.
5. Access to data is obtained via modern information and communication technologies, facilitating its using by experts and the society in general, without prejudice to ensuring universal access.
6. Means of access to and dissemination of statistical data take into account, as far as possible, the convenience of users and their needs.
7. DREM website (<http://estatistica.gov-madeira.pt/>; <http://drem.ine.pt/>) is the main channel for the dissemination of statistical data. It releases at first-hand all official statistics.
8. DREM website is dynamic and continuously updated in terms of contents, functionalities and timeliness of data.
9. DREM website is available in Portuguese and partly in English.
10. DREM website strives to meet national and international requirements and guidelines related to accessibility by citizens with special needs.
11. Access to data is obtained via different means namely. Also, DREM maintains at its office a point of access to statistical data, thus making it possible to provide specialised support to users.

D - MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE DISSEMINATION POLICY

The quality and accessibility of disseminated data are subject to a systematic assessment, with a view to ensure continued improvement of dissemination activity.

1. The different types of users are regularly surveyed on their satisfaction regarding products and services made available to them by DREM.
2. User comments, suggestions and complaints are viewed as real opportunities to further improve DREM dissemination activity.
3. User comments, suggestions and complaints, where relevant, lead to the adoption of measures to further improve DREM activity, particularly in the dissemination function.