

National Statistical Standards

The Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS) is responsible for the development and promotion of national statistical standards, including classifications, concepts and definitions, for use in statistical activities. With the decentralised statistical system in Singapore, national statistical standards must be established to ensure that data compiled by various government agencies are consistent and comparable.

The national statistical standards provide a common framework to classify and aggregate data collected in statistical surveys and administrative systems. They are relevant to both Research and Statistics Units as well as ministries, government departments and statutory boards which collect statistics as by-products of their administrative systems or under the appropriate legislation governing the operations of their respective organisations. The use of the relevant national statistical standards in administrative data facilitates the compilation of important Singapore official statistics.

Singapore's national statistical standards are consistent with the United Nations' Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Our statistical classifications, concepts and definitions meet national requirements

and are compatible with international standards.

DOS has developed three national standard statistical classifications. They are the Singapore Standard Industrial Classification (SSIC), the Singapore Standard Occupational Classification (SSOC) and the Singapore Standard Educational Classification (SSEC). These classifications are revised and updated periodically to take into account changes in economic activities, employment structure and educational system as appropriate. There are different levels of aggregation in each of the national standard statistical classifications. This provides flexibility for data producers to adopt the classifications according to the level of detail required for their purpose.

The adoption of a common framework, as provided by Singapore's national statistical standards, benefits both producers and users of data. Among producers, data-sharing is facilitated by the use of the same statistical standards. Data users benefit from the availability of consistent and comparable data for analysis. Data producers are therefore encouraged to adopt the national statistical standards, where appropriate, so as to maximise the value of the data collected and compiled.