

Official Statistics
Statutory Framework
Law No. 17622

Buenos Aires, January 25, 1968

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Under the authority vested in him under section 5 of the Argentine Revolution Statute

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE NATION

HEREBY ENACTS THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS WITH FORCE OF LAW:

SECTION 1.- All official statistical activities and the censuses conducted within Argentina shall be governed by the provisions of this law.

SECTION 2.- Be the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses hereby created, which will operate under the Secretariat of the National Council for Development, and shall be headed by a Director to be appointed by the Executive.

SECTION 3.- The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC, for its Spanish acronym) shall have the following purposes:(a) Consolidating the orientation and conducting the highest-level direction of all the official statistical activities carried out within Argentina;(b) Structuring the National Statistical System (SEN, for its Spanish acronym), by way of the articulation and coordination of the national, provincial and local statistical services, and put the SEN in place in accordance with the principle of regulatory centralization and executive decentralization.

SECTION 4.- The National Statistical System shall be made up of:(a) The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses.(b) The statistics central bodies, namely:

- (I) The statistical services of State Ministries and Secretariats
 - (II) The statistical services of the Commanders-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
 - (III) The statistical services of the decentralized bodies of the National Administration
 - (IV) The statistical services of state-owned corporations.
- (c) The peripheral statistical bodies, namely:
- (I) The statistical services of provincial governments
 - (II) The statistical services of local governments
 - (III) The statistical services of the provincial and local autarchic and decentralized offices
 - (IV) The statistical services of companies owned by the provincial and local governments
 - (V) The statistical services of inter-provincial entities.

SECTION 5.- The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses shall be responsible for the following:(a) Planning, promoting and coordinating the duties of the bodies that compose the National Statistical System;(b) Drafting the national statistics and census annual program, with the corresponding budget per program, mainly on the

basis of the information needs reported by the Secretariat of the National Council for Development (CONADE, for its Spanish acronym) and the National Council for Security (CONASE, for its Spanish acronym), considering the requirements of other public or private entities;(c) Establish the methodological rules and the execution programs of the statistics included in the annual program;(d) Distributing, among the entities composing the National Statistical System, the duties set out in the national statistics and censuses annual program, as well as the funds required for their performance, when applicable;(e) Promoting the creation of new statistical services throughout Argentina;(f) Promoting the proper dissemination of all the statistical information to the Ministries, Commanders in Chief, State Secretariats, provincial and local governments, public and private organizations, and the population at large;(g) Conducting methodological and statistical research aimed at increasing the technical and scientific level of the National Statistical System;(h) Executing agreements of statistical nature with public and private entities and promoting them among foreign and international bodies;(i) Conducting statistical and technical training courses with the collaboration of international, national and private bodies and granting training fellowships to the staff in order to enhance the technical and scientific level of the National Statistical System;(j) Sending representatives to national and international conferences and meetings that have an agenda addressing statistical issues;(k) Organizing an exchange and interpretation center of national and international statistical information;(l) Holding national conferences and meetings with an agenda addressing statistical issues;(m) Preparing such statistics as it deems convenient, without affecting the executive decentralization principle set forth in subsection (d);(n) Any other duty that contributes to the attainment of the purposes established in section 3 of this Law.

SECTION 6.- The budget of the resources of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses shall be composed of:(a) Such resources as established by the Argentine General Budget Law.(b) The revenues from the sale of publications, certifications, registrations and works to third parties.(c) The penalties imposed for violations to this Law.(d) Contributions and subsidies from provinces, local governments, and official agencies and offices, and mixed, private and international bodies.(e) Donations, bequests and devices.

SECTION 7.- The budget of expenses of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses shall provide for the amounts to be allocated to:(a) The expenditures required to perform the annual program of national statistics, research and censuses;(b) The payment of the services that may be agreed upon with the peripheral offices of the National Statistical System other than those established in such offices' budgets;(c) The extension or enhancement of the services of the peripheral offices of the National Statistical System;(d) The improvement of the work methods of the bodies composing the National Statistical System;(e) The organization of scientific or technical missions related to statistical programs;(f) The engagement of statistical technical or scientific works;(g) The payment of training fellowships that are part of the INDEC's training programs;(h) Any other expenditures that are related to the INDEC's operations.

SECTION 8.- All the offices that compose the National Statistical System shall submit an annual report to the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses on the budgets, on a per-program basis, of all the statistical tasks to be carried out, so as to integrate them in the national program, pursuant to the rules established by the INDEC. Central offices shall use their budget allocations to carry out the statistical programs that are part of the national program, for which purpose the respective Ministries and State Secretariats, Commanders in Chief, decentralized bodies and state-owned and semi-public corporations shall provide the relevant resources. Peripheral offices may request supplementary funding from the INDEC to cover the expenses related to:(a) The carrying out of national censuses and statistics;(b) Technical assistance programs prepared by the INDEC for such offices;(c) Investments considered necessary by the INDEC in order to increase such offices' level of efficiency.

The INDEC may provide such resources when, at its discretion, the budget items allocated to such offices are not sufficient.

SECTION 9.- For the purposes of performing the duties that compose the annual program or the statistical plans prepared by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses from time to time, the central and peripheral offices shall operate under the INDEC's regulatory provisions, and shall use the methods, definitions, forms,

cartography, classifications, formulas and all other technical provisions or regulations established by the INDEC with a view to gathering, producing, analyzing and publishing statistics and censuses.

SECTION 10.- The information to be provided to the bodies that compose the National Statistical System, in compliance with this Law, shall be kept secret and shall be used for statistical purposes only. The data shall be provided and published, exclusively, in joint compilations so that the trade or monetary secrets, or the individuals or legal entities therein mentioned are not revealed or singled out. The following registration data are exempted from statistical secrecy: name and surname –or corporate name; address, and branch of economic activity.

SECTION 11.- All national, provincial and local bodies and offices, individuals or legal entities, whether public or private, established in Argentina, shall provide the bodies that compose the National Statistical System with information and data of statistical interest that may be required by them.

SECTION 12.- Be the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses authorized to require, when considered necessary, that individuals or legal entities that are bound to provide information of statistical nature disclose accounting books and entries for the purposes of verifying any such information. If the provided data are not entered in the accounting books, the original documents and records upon which the information provided was based shall be disclosed.

SECTION 13.- Any person who, by reason of their position or responsibilities, becomes aware of statistical or census information shall keep such information strictly confidential.

SECTION 14.- Any person who is required to carry out statistical or census tasks, as a public burden, shall be bound to performing such duties. Failure to do so may cause the application of the sanctions established in section 239 of Argentina's Criminal Code, save for the exceptions regulated by the Executive from time to time.

SECTION 15.- Any person who fails to provide the information required by the National Statistical System for statistical and census purposes in a timely manner, or provides false or misleading information, or deliberately omits any such information, shall be considered to be in violation of this Law and may be required to pay a penalty ranging from ten thousand (10,000) to five hundred thousand (500,000) Pesos, local currency, in accordance with the procedure set forth in the regulatory provisions of this Law.

SECTION 16.- In the case of business and non-business entities, whether bodies corporate or not, their directors, administrators, managers, or members that participated in the actions considered punishable shall be held personally liable. In the case of penalties, the sanctioned entities shall be held secondarily liable. In the event the same violation is committed again within one (1) year after the imposition of the sanction under section 13, the punishment under section 239 of Argentina's Criminal Code may apply, regardless of any other penalties that may be imposed.

SECTION 17.- Officers or employees that disclose individual census or statistical information to third parties, or use any such information learned by reason of their responsibilities and duties at their own advantage, or willingly distort, omit or alter statistical or census data, shall be discharged from all their civil service positions, and shall be punished by way of the sanctions applicable under Argentina's Criminal Code (Book II, Title V, Chapter III).

TEMPORARY PROVISIONS

SECTION 18.- Within ninety (90) days after the enactment date of this Law, the bodies that compose the National Statistical System shall provide the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses with such information as it may require on the statistical tasks performed by them, the staff and equipment allocated thereto, as well as the budgetary resources required to carry out any such tasks.

SECTION 19.- Within one hundred and eighty (180) after the enactment date of this Law, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses shall propose to the Executive its own organizational chart and the complete structure of the National Statistical System, establishing the areas of responsibility of each of the bodies composing it.

SECTION 20.- The National Office of Statistics and Censuses, which currently operates under the State Secretariat of Economy, shall become part of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, along with its budget, staff, real and personal property, fixtures, and records.

SECTION 21.- Be Law No. 14046 hereby repealed, as well as any other provision that contradicts this Law.

SECTION 22.- Be this Law communicated, published, sent to the National Office of Official Registration, and filed.

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Signed: ONGANIA

GUILLERMO A. BORDA

