

South Africa

Statistics South Africa's position on statistics

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 **Statistics**
South Africa



••• your leading partner in quality statistics

South Africa's position

- Report to Minister for National Planning
- Statistics Act, 1999 (Act No. 6 of 1999)
- Official statistics assist:
 - Organs of state
 - Businesses
 - Public.

Statistics South Africa

- Stats SA is mandated to:
 - Promote co-ordination among statistical producers in South Africa
 - Provide statistical advice to organs of state
 - Liaise with statistical agencies of other countries and international agencies.

Mandatory Leadership

- Stats SA has mandatory leadership in terms of alignment, use and production of statistics.
- Statistics are produced by various institutions and organizations:
 - National, provincial, local government and statutory bodies
 - Private sector, research bodies, and non-governmental organizations.

SASQAF 'official' vs 'national'

- SASQAF draws a distinction between 'official' and 'national' statistics:
 - National statistics refer to those statistics used in the public domain, that has not been certified by the Statistician General as official.
 - Official statistics are those statistics that have been certified by the SG as being official in terms of Section 14(7)(a) of the Statistics Act.

SASQAF assessment

- For assessment of data quality to commence, the submitting institution and statistics under review need to comply with three initial criteria:
 - The producing agency must become a member of NSS.
 - The statistics need to meet user needs beyond those specific and internal to the producing agency.
 - The statistics produced should be part of a sustainable series, not a once-off collection.

SASQAF quality dimensions

- Stats SA defines data quality in terms of ‘fitness for use’.
- There are prerequisites to the eight dimensions of quality:
 - Relevance
 - Accuracy
 - Timeliness
 - Accessibility
 - Interpretability
 - Coherence
 - Methodological soundness
 - Integrity
- These eight dimensions provide a benchmark for the four different levels against which statistics will be measured.

SASQAF classification

- Statistics have to be classified as one of the following:
 - Quality statistics
 - Acceptable statistics
 - Questionable statistics
 - Poor statistics.

SASQAF levels

- The four levels of certification:
 - Level Four: Quality Statistics – these are statistics that meet all the quality requirements as set out in SASQAF.
 - Level Three: Acceptable Statistics – these are the statistics that meet most, but not all the quality requirements as stipulated in SASQAF.
 - Level Two: Questionable Statistics – these are the statistics that meet few of the quality requirements as stipulated in SASQAF.
 - Level One: Poor Statistics – these are the statistics that meet almost none of the quality requirements as stipulated in SASQAF.

Line Ministries

- Various line ministries concerned with the environment have different focus areas:
 - The Presidency
 - Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing
 - Environmental Affairs
 - Energy
 - Mineral Resources
 - Water Affairs
 - Rural Development & Land Reform.

Thank you

