

Law No. 12 of 2012

General Statistics law

Article 1: This Law shall be called the “*General Statistics Law for the Year 2012*” and shall become effective as of the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

Article 2: The following words and expressions shall have the meanings attached thereto hereunder, unless the context indicates otherwise:

Minister: Minister of Planning and International Cooperation.

Department: Department of Statistics.

Director General: Director General of the Department.

Respondent: A natural or corporate person, committed to provide statistical information and data, whether residing on the territory of the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan, its territorial waters, or abroad.

Data: Individual or aggregate statistical figures and data pertaining to the *Respondent*, which are collected by virtue of a statistical activity or obtained from the *Administrative Records* in accordance with the adopted national or international standards.

Official Statistics: Statistics released by the Department.

Individual Data: Any digital data, descriptive characteristics or information that reveals the identity of the respondent, including his/her name and address, or specific economic activity or geographic location related thereto.

Statistical Documents: The maps, charts, records, questionnaires, and sample lists and the like.

Administrative Records: Any data collected from the records of official and public institutions or municipalities, whether related to these institutions or to other parties.

Statistical Activity: Any census, survey, study poll or any other statistical activity, performed wholly or partially.

Information: Statistical data and related explanatory and analytical information.

Article 3: The present Law aims to organize the statistical work in the Kingdom and the provisions thereof shall apply to all citizens and foreigners present on the Kingdom’s territory or territorial waters or transiting there-through by any means of transportation.

Article 4: The Department shall be attached to the **Minister** and shall be considered as the sole Governmental body authorized to collect statistical information and data

from respondents. For this purpose, it shall undertake the tasks and enjoy the capacities described here below:

A. Collect, classify, store, analyze and disseminate official statistics, including surveys related to various social, demographic, economic, agricultural, environmental, cultural areas of life, as well as any area related to the other conditions, activities, and circumstances of the Society in accordance with the definitions, classifications, criteria, methods and techniques that are recognized in this area.

B. Conduct a *General Census*, at most once every ten years on the dates set by the *Council of Ministers* at the recommendation of the **Minister**, in any of the following areas and matters:

1. Housing and population.
2. Agriculture.
3. Industry.
4. Establishments.
5. Any other area, decided by the *Council of Ministers*, at the recommendation of the **Minister**, to conduct a census thereof.

C. Coordinate and organize the statistical work in partnership with the different Governmental departments with a view to developing their statistical administrative records in such a manner that is in line with international practices and standards, guarantees proper timing and meets the requirements of data users efficiently and effectively.

D. Participate in international cooperation and exchange of expertise with Arab and international scientific institutions involved in the area of statistics in accordance with international criteria and requirements.

E. Enter into contracts and conclude agreements with local and international bodies, after obtaining the approval of the *Council of Ministers* at the recommendation of the **Minister**.

F. Accept donations, contributions and grants, provided approval of the Council of Ministers thereto is secured.

G. Establish statistical training centers and prepare the necessary training plans and programs therefore.

H. Conduct any specialized survey on behalf of any party that requests such survey in exchange for a fee to be decided by the Director General.

I. Hold seminars and conferences, conduct activities to raise awareness about importance to use statistics in decision making.

Article 5: The Director General shall undertake the tasks and enjoy the authorities described here below:

A. Organize the work of the Department and manage its affairs.

B. Follow up on the implementation of the Department's projects and cooperate and coordinate for this purpose with the relevant parties.

C. Any other tasks required in the interest of the Department's work and conforming to valid legal rules.

Article 6 : A. Governmental departments shall undertake to facilitate the tasks of the Department's employees commissioned with any statistical or census activity, guarantee easy contacts with the relevant parties, and supply all the information they request for statistical purposes, including allowing said employees to examine records and other means of storing information.

B. Governmental departments are further obligated to coordinate with the Department before effecting any amendments to the forms of the records or the statistical mechanisms they employ, in order to guarantee that these records, forms and mechanisms achieve the purposes of statistical work.

Article 7: A. Statistical units at Governmental departments shall comply, each in the area of its work, with the definitions, classifications and technical criteria adopted by the Department and shall coordinate therewith for this purpose in order to prevent any contradiction in statistical figures.

B. Any Governmental department, may, in coordination with the **Department**, conduct any survey aimed at collecting specific statistical data if such survey is directly related to the area of the governmental department's work and if the data is not available at the **Department** after securing the approval of the Director General thereto.

Article 8: A. Any unofficial body may conduct a statistical survey related to the marketing of its products or services.

B. Any unofficial body may collect and disseminate statistical information on behalf of another body subject to prior written permission therefore from the Director General.

Article 9: A. Any natural or corporate person is required to provide the Department's employees commissioned with any statistical or census work all the data requested thereby, whether such data are individual or related to the person's profession or private business, whether such data are commercial or industrial. Such data shall be submitted in the manner and on the date specified by the Department.

B. Persons mentioned in Paragraph (A) of this Article shall facilitate the task of the Department's employees commissioned with conducting the census and other statistical operations in order to verify the data and information submitted thereto, including the reviewing of records, papers, documents and other means of storing information.

Article 10: A. A *Statistics Consultative Committee* under the chairmanship of the **Minister** shall be formed and shall include the following members:

1. The Director General as Deputy Chairman
2. Nine experienced or specialized persons (four from the public sector and five from the private sector) to be appointed by virtue of a decision made by the Prime Minister at the recommendation of the Minister.

B. The Committee shall undertake the following consultative tasks voluntarily:

1. Reviewing the Department's annual plans and identifying the priorities and areas of statistical work in order to contribute to the Kingdom's strategic planning and statistics-related policies.
2. Examining any proposals related to statistical work and its development and submitting the necessary recommendations thereon.

C. Determining the way in which the Committee's meetings are to be held, the quorum requirements there for, the way in which recommendations are to be made, and all matters related thereto by virtue of instructions to be issued by the Minister for this purpose.

Article 11: A. All individual information and data submitted to the Department and related to any survey or census shall be considered confidential and the Department or any of the persons working therein may not, subject to legal responsibility, reveal to, or allow any person or public or private body to view same, totally or partly, or use same for any purpose other than the preparation of statistical tables.

B. When disseminating official statistics, the Department shall be bound to not to reveal any individual data in order to safeguard the confidentiality thereof.

C. It shall be incumbent upon any employee of the Department to take an oath and sign a recognizance by virtue of which he/she commits himself/herself not to disclose or disseminate any individual information or data.

D. The Department shall take the necessary measures to protect and save the collected data in places where conditions of security and safety are met.

Article 12: Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (A) of **Article 11** of this Law:

A. Individual data may be used to prove violations perpetrated contrary to the provisions of the present Law.

B. The data may also be used if the person or party to either of whom the individual data are related agrees thereto.

Article 13: The Department may provide any available preliminary data to any party that requests such data, in accordance with instructions to be issued by the **Minister**, for the purposes of study and scientific analysis. Furthermore, the said party shall submit a recognizance by virtue of which it commits itself to these purposes, provided the Department guarantees that such data do not include any individual data in order to safeguard the confidentiality thereof.

Article 14: Every Department employee shall be supplied with an identity card signed by the Director General to which his/her personal photograph is affixed in order to prove his/her identity and enable him/her to undertake the tasks entrusted to him/her by virtue of the provisions of the present Law.

Article 15: A. Any Department employee perpetrating any of the following acts shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not less than *Six Months* and not more than *One Year* or a fine of not less than *Five Hundred Dinars* and not more than *One Thousand Dinars*, or by both penalties:

1. Disclosing any confidential statistical information or data as stipulated in Article 11 of the present Law or any industrial or commercial secrets or methods of work that are considered to be confidential which he/she views in the course of his/her work.
2. Deliberately keeping or hiding, destroying or falsifying any statistical documents containing data.
3. Negligently losing any confidential statistical documents that contain data.

B. The maximum penalties listed in Paragraph (A) of the present Article shall be imposed on any of the Department's employees who repeat any of the offences listed therein.

Article 16 : A. Anyone perpetrating any of the following acts shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not less than *Six Months* and not more than *One Year* or a fine of not less than *Five Hundred Dinars* and not more than *One Thousand Dinars*, or by both penalties:

1. Falsely impersonating a Department employee or any person entrusted with a task related to the census or statistical survey.
2. Deliberately obstructing the census or statistical survey.
3. Deliberately giving misleading information or data to any of the persons entrusted with conducting the census or survey.
4. Obtaining by fraud, threat, beguilement or any other means from any Department employee or from the Department's records and records confidential statistical information and data in the meaning purported in the text of Paragraph (A) of Article 11 of the present Law.

B. The maximum penalties listed in Paragraph (A) of the present Article shall be imposed in the case of repetition of any of the offences listed therein.

Article 17: Nothing in the present Law shall prevent the imposition of more severe punishments that may be stipulated in any other valid Law.

Article 18: A. Any party considered to have abstained from giving information and data shall be punished by a fine of not more than *Hundred Dinars* if it is proved that he/she has been informed of the request before the specified time for the submission thereof and that the period of time specified in the request has elapsed without him/her submitting the information and data.

B. The provisions of Paragraph (A) of the present Article do not apply if it is proved to the Director General that he/she has lawful excuse that has prevented the submission of the requested information and data. The census activities where the information and data submission deadlines for which are to be determined by a decision issued by the Council of Ministers are excluded.

Article 19: The Council of Ministers shall issue the byelaws necessary for implementation of the provisions of the present Law, including a byelaw governing the statistical training centers.

Article 20: The General Statistics Law No. 24 for the Year 1950 and its amendments shall be herewith repealed, provided that the byelaws and instructions issued by virtue thereof remain valid until repealed, amended or replaced by other legislation.

Article 21: The Prime Minister and the Ministers shall be charged with the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

Date: 12 March 2012