

Statistics Finland Act (48/1992)

Section 1

For the purposes of official statistics, there shall be a central statistical office, Statistics Finland, within the administrative sector of the Ministry of Finance.

Section 2

It shall be the function of Statistics Finland to compile statistics and reports describing the conditions in society and to provide for the general development of official statistics in collaboration with other central government authorities. Further, Statistics Finland shall perform any other functions that may be assigned to it by decree or order.

Section 2 a § [\(3.2.2023/145\)](#)

In addition to what is prescribed in Section 2, the function of Statistics Finland is to maintain, develop and improve services related to the production and dissemination of statistics and data materials to advance scientific research and statistical surveys describing social conditions (*research and data services*). The research and data services are intended to advance the production of scientific research and statistical surveys describing social conditions at universities, universities of applied sciences, research institutes and thinktanks, and to meet the data needs of researchers conducting research in other organisations without undue delay, in a data secure processing environment, with up-to-date data and in as unbiased a manner as possible.

The data of an administrative register collected for statistical purposes are released to the research and data services without undue delay even before the statistics have been published, unless the release of the data in some other manner than as prescribed in [Section 13 of the Statistics Act \(280/2004\)](#) breaches statistical confidentiality or essentially and unjustifiably endangers the equal treatment of other data users. The results derived from the released data may not be published without the consent of the authority having submitted the data to Statistics Finland until the authority having submitted the data has published information from the data. The application for access rights referred to in Section 2 b, Subsection 3 of this Act, Section 13 of the Statistics Act and [Section 28](#) of the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999) relating to the urgent need for data materials by the Government or its ministry must be considered before the application concerning access rights of an administrative authority under the Government.

Section 2 b § [\(3.2.2023/145\)](#)

Notwithstanding confidentiality provisions and other restrictions on the release of data, Statistics Finland may receive, compile and store for research and data services such data that are necessary for forming ready-made datasets and which are released for purposes of scientific research or for making statistical surveys describing social conditions. Statistics Finland may form ready-made datasets from data collected for statistical purposes prescribed in the Statistics Act and from data received for the research and data services as referred to in this section. The data released for forming ready-made datasets and the ready-made datasets formed from them must be kept confidential at Statistics Finland.

Statistics Finland may store the ready-made datasets it has compiled as long as they are necessary for conducting research and to ensure the appropriateness of its results. Statistics Finland must remove the data it

has obtained pursuant to sub-section 1 after one year from the formation of ready-made datasets. The National Archives of Finland decides on the storage of data permanently.

Notwithstanding the provisions of other acts on the obligation of authorities to release confidential data, Statistics Finland may, irrespective of confidentiality provisions and other restrictions on release of data, grant outsiders access rights to the ready-made datasets formed from the data it has received for research and data services referred to above in sub-section 1 on the grounds laid down in this act. Access rights may only be granted for scientific research purposes or statistical surveys describing social conditions. Access rights to data and statistical materials must be granted to researchers regardless of whether Statistics Finland has formed ready-made datasets from them. The recipient of access rights may not release ready-made datasets or data on them further, unless Statistics Finland gives permission to do so. The prerequisites for the release of data or granting of access rights is otherwise subject to the provisions of Section 28 of the Act on the Openness of Government Activities.

Statistics Finland shall release the ready-made datasets referred to in sub-section 1 above so that direct identification of natural persons or other statistical units is not possible. According to access rights, Statistics Finland opens access to ready-made datasets or draws from ready-made datasets the data for which access rights have been granted.

Statistics Finland must retain a description of the ready-made datasets it has formed and of the safeguards it has applied to prevent direct identification. If ready-made datasets are given to the same user based on several different research plans, combining of different datasets in the research and data services must be technically prevented.

Section 3 (8.11.2002/901)

Statistics Finland shall be headed by a Director General. The organisation and the operating units of Statistics Finland shall be determined in the rules of procedure, which shall be confirmed by the Director General. The Director General shall also decide matters that have not been decreed or assigned in the rules of procedure to be decided by some other official of Statistics Finland. Matters that cannot be assigned in the rules of procedure to be decided by some other official shall be decreed by the Council of State.

Section 4 (8.11.2002/901)

Filling of vacant posts at Statistics Finland, the tasks of the Director General and the leadership tasks of other officials in leading positions, as well as the appointment of the Director General's deputy shall be prescribed by a decree of the Council of State. Provisions concerning other temporary posts, internal management, and other matters connected with internal administration shall be made in the rules of procedure.

Section 5

This act shall enter into force on 1 March 1992.

This act repeals the Central Statistical Office Act promulgated on 23 December 1970 (796/70) and any of its subsequent amendments. However, 2 and 3 § of the act repealed shall remain in force until otherwise enacted by law.

Before the act enters into force, such measures may be undertaken as are necessary for its enforcement.