

المركز الإحصائي
لدول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية
GCC-STAT



International Forum on Transforming the Statistical System in GCC Countries:

Productivity and New Data Challenges

9-10 April 2014

Muscat, Sultanate of Oman





Strengthening National Statistical Systems of GCC Countries through GCC-Stat

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Statistical Coordination

- Measuring for Results / Progress
 - Still in initial stages in many developing countries.
- Reliable and good quality statistics are needed to see:
 - if objectives set for development are reached;
 - the effectiveness of policies and programmes conducted.
- Overseeing and measuring the whole development process is possible through statistics.
- Overall statistical coordination mechanism is a must to provide necessary resources, avoid duplication and involve all relevant stakeholders in statistical processes.



Regional Integration

- A union under the GCC umbrella necessitates integrated flow of information.
- Adopted strategy; and implementation, monitoring, evaluation and analysis of programmes determine statistics needed.
- Factors for the Emergence of Regional Statistical Initiatives
 - An interest for the common good;
 - A desire for economic and social development;
 - Ensuring economies of scale;
 - Emergence of comparative advantage of the regional level;
 - Conducting advocacy at the regional level



Regional Statistical Entities

- EuroStat: A supranational entity that feeds statistics at European level to users to enable them make comparisons between EU countries and regions.
- To provide statistics to various EU institutions with data for the design, conduct, evaluation and assessment of the EU policies.
- Forming a common statistical 'language' that comprehends concepts, methods, structures and technical standards.
- Eurostat consolidates data sent by EU States and ensures they are comparable, using harmonized methodologies.



Big Data

- Nature of official statistics is not static any more.
- Emergence of "big data", "open data", and "data revolution".
- Big Data: ... high-volume, high-velocity and high-variety information assets that demand cost-effective, innovative forms of information processing for enhanced insight and decision making.
- Big Data has the potential to produce more relevant and timely statistics than traditional sources of official statistics.
- Private sector may present new challenges for official statistics on timeliness and relevance.



Big Data

- Google Flu Trends estimates flu activity based on search data.
- Statistics has to ensure relevancy to people's daily lives.
- Big Data Integration R&D Division under GCC-Stat to guide NSOs of the Gulf countries on how to incorporate Big Data into their infrastructures and train statisticians for the new era.

google.org Flu Trends

[Google.org home](#)

[Dengue Trends](#)

Flu Trends

[Home](#)

United States ▼

National ▼

[Download data](#)

[How does this work?](#)

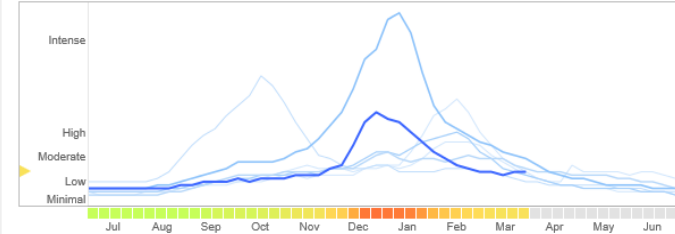
[FAQ](#)

Explore flu trends - United States

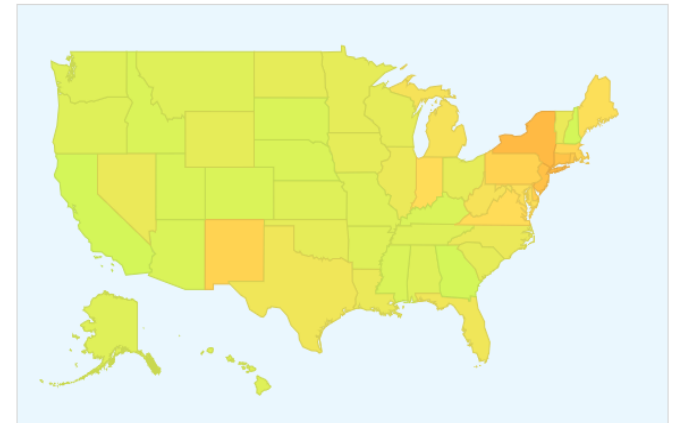
We've found that certain search terms are good indicators of flu activity. Google Flu Trends uses aggregated Google search data to estimate flu activity. [Learn more >](#)

National

● 2013-2014 ● Past years ▼



States | [Cities](#) (Experimental)



Open Data

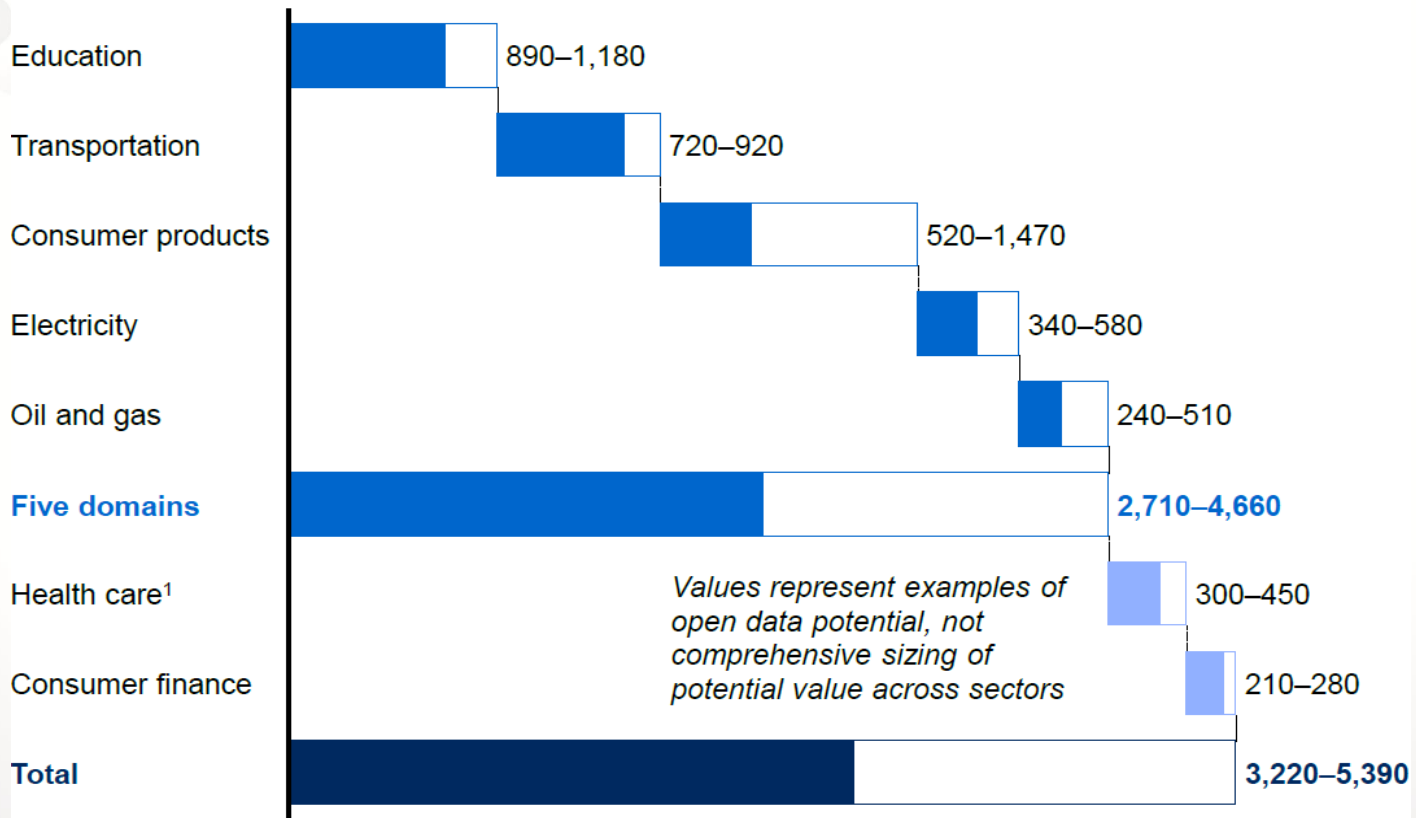
- Importance of informing citizens about governance, and presenting evidence about the state of society.
- Open data: Information available for anyone to use, for any purpose, at no cost.
- 2013 Public Administration Select Committee Report:
 - Supply of statistics as open data with minimal restrictions on re-use is a major advance.
 - Facilitates adding value through further products and services, ultimately adding to effective communication of the statistical data.



Open Data

Open data can help unlock \$3.2 trillion to \$5.4 trillion in economic value per year across seven “domains”

\$ billion



¹ Includes US values only.

NOTE: Numbers may not sum due to rounding.

SOURCE: McKinsey Global Institute analysis



Open Data

- In the path to "Open Data", GCC-Stat together with the NSOs of the GCC should:
 - exhibit a strong will to proactively support the open data agenda through related activities;
 - adopt data dissemination practices which are consistent with their strategies, and protect the confidentiality of the individuals; and
 - embrace "Open Data Principles" of
 - reuse and redistribution,
 - universal participation, and
 - availability and access.



Data Revolution

- High-Level Panel Report on the Post-2015 Development

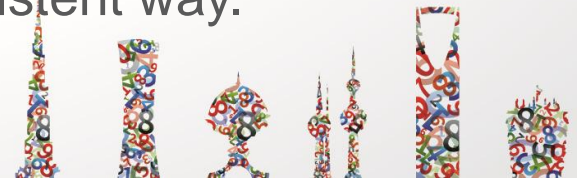
Agenda:

"A **true data revolution** would draw on existing and new sources of data to fully integrate statistics into decision making, promote open access to, and use of, data and ensure increased support for statistical systems."



Data Revolution

- Global Partnership on Development Data responsible for:
 - developing a strategy to address gaps in critical information,
 - improving data availability, and
 - ensuring that quality baseline information is in place to measure and define progress against established development goals.
- The Report also proposes that governments should adopt the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and the World Bank Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) as metrics to monitor national development strategies and results in a universally consistent way.



Data Revolution

- GCC-Stat can play a major role in coordinating GCC statistical system activities by:
 - taking the lead in bringing about a culture of quality in statistical activities;
 - improving the human resources capacity of the NSOs through statistical capacity programmes;
 - increasing the awareness of the policy-makers regarding the roles NSOs play in the evidence based decision making processes; and
 - promoting the Open Data idea among its relevant stakeholders.



SESRIC StatCaB Programme

- Aforementioned points require a high level of statistical capacity.
- Statistical capacity development activities are a never-ending track as the need for statistics is shaped by the ever-changing socio-economic and environmental conditions.
- Since 2007, SESRIC conducts its statistical capacity development activities under its flagship StatCaB (Statistical Capacity Building) Programme.
- StatCaB Survey is circulated every 2 years, the last in 2013, to collect information on needs and capacities of NSOs and carry out our training activities.



SESRIC StatCaB Programme

- The GCC NSOs have indicated the following needs in statistical domains as a priority:
- **Social and Demographic Statistics:** Population and Migration, Social Protection, Justice and Crime
- **Economic Statistics:** National Accounts (Social Accounting Matrixes, Institutional Sectors, Supply-Use and Input-Output Tables), Business Statistics (Mining-Manufacturing-Construction, Wholesale and Retail Trade, Transport and Communication), Cross-Cutting Economic Statistics (Tourism, Prices, Informal Sector)



SESRIC StatCaB Programme

- **Environment and Multi-Domain Statistics:** Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Poverty, Living Conditions and Cross-Cutting Social Issues, Sustainable Development, Millennium Development Goals Indicators
- **Methodology of Data Collection, Processing, Dissemination and Analysis:** Data Analysis, Population and Housing Censuses; Registers of Population; Dwellings and Buildings, Household Surveys, Data Editing and Data Linkage



SESRIC StatCaB Programme

- **Strategic and Managerial Issues of Official Statistics:**
Quality Frameworks and Measurement of Performance of
Statistical Systems and Offices, Statistical Programs;
Coordination within Statistical Systems



SESRIC StatCaB Programme

- The GCC NSOs have indicated the following needs in Professional Skills for Official Statisticians as a priority:
- **Effective Communication:** Analytical and Critical Thinking, Effective Oral and Written Communication Techniques, Leadership and Personal Development in an Official Statistics Setting
- **Change Management:** Concepts of Leadership, Organising Effective Meetings, Team Formation and Management, Time Management, Understanding the Business of Statistics and Project Management



SESRIC StatCaB Programme

- **Stakeholder Relations and Statistical Literacy:** Efficient User Complaints Management Systems, Community Outreach through Social Media for NSOs, Developing Statistical Literacy and Data Awareness Initiatives, Stakeholder Relationship Management



Migration Statistics

- Labour market structure of the GCC countries heavily relies on outsourced human resources.
- ILO reported that the GCC countries attract flows from the South Asia and South East Asia region due to the strong economic performance of the GCC countries.
- Lack of a unified framework for collecting, processing, and distributing data on migrant workers in the Gulf is one of the major obstacles to effective cooperation among countries involved.



Migration Statistics

- Lack of such a framework blinds policy makers to realities of labour migration and prevents researchers from evaluating associated achievements and obstacles.
- These problems lead to “trial and error” approaches on practical side and speculation on theoretical side. To avoid "trial and error" approach trap, the GCC statistical system should be strengthened to identify a common data scope and then consolidate migration data under the NSOs.
- To achieve the cooperation linkages, GCC-Stat may take up this issue in collaboration with the international organisations and provide solutions for the member countries.



OIC Statistical Commission

- Another avenue for cooperation with GCC-Stat: **OIC-StatCom**
- OIC-StatCom is an important forum aiming to generate a dynamic platform for the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries to share and exchange knowledge and best practices that can help them become more efficient in managing their NSS.
- Since 2011, three Sessions have been organised together with Islamic Development Bank. The Fourth Session will be taking place on 21-23 April 2014 at SESRIC Headquarters.
- The content of each OIC-StatCom Session is determined by its members. In this respect, each Session specifically focuses on the issues articulated by the member NSOs



OIC Statistical Commission

- OIC-StatCom highly contributes towards multilateral cooperation among member NSOs. Members can discuss and set the road-map for action with respect to their needs in both the mainstream official statistics and the statistics specific to Islamic world including Islamic Banking & Finance Statistics, Halal Products Statistics, and Waqf Statistics.
- **OIC Certification Programme for Statisticians (OIC-CPS)** also offers a cooperation opportunity between OIC-StatCom and GCC-Stat. It aims at certifying the expertise and knowledge on the professional conduct of official statistical work.



THANK YOU

