

09/10/2019 - Statement by Martine Durand, OECD Chief Statistician and Director of the Statistics and Data Directorate, on the report [*OECD Assessment of the Statistical System of Argentina and Key Statistics of Argentina*](#)

“Argentina is living through a period of great and complex challenges. As it confronts these challenges, a strong national statistical system and high-quality official statistics are essential to inform policy and decision makers, academics, the media, and the general public on the state of the country in all its economic, environmental and social dimensions.

To be useful, and trusted, official statistics must respect internationally accepted principles and methods. However, as statistics are constantly evolving to meet new needs and measure new phenomena, ensuring their quality is always a work in progress.

As a contribution towards Argentina’s efforts in the statistical field, I am pleased to announce today the publication of a new Assessment of the Statistical System of Argentina and Key Statistics of Argentina, conducted by the OECD Statistics and Data Directorate. This technical report is the result of strong co-operation between the OECD and the Argentinian statistical authorities, in particular INDEC, which started in 2016 with a preliminary review after Argentina requested its adherence to the Recommendation of the OECD Council on Good Statistical Practice (<https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0417>).

The assessment published today covers Argentina’s legal and institutional framework for official statistics, important components of its statistical infrastructure such as censuses of population and housing, and Argentina’s statistical production in a range of domains including national accounts, price statistics, business statistics, trade statistics, labour statistics, income distribution, and well-being indicators. All these aspects have been carefully evaluated in terms of their coverage and compliance with international standards.

The report provides an overview of the significant progress accomplished by the Argentinian statistical authorities over the last three and a half years, and recognises the commitment of INDEC to leading the process of improving the quality of official statistics. While much has been achieved in almost all areas, the report also points to important outstanding challenges in moving Argentinian official statistics closer to international standards. To meet these challenges, a number of recommendations are made to strengthen the national statistical system, establish procedures for efficient coordination within it, implement a quality management system, strengthen the statistical infrastructure, and further align official statistics with international standards.

Special emphasis is placed on the need for a new statistical law that will reinforce the professional independence of INDEC and other producers of official statistics; ensure the impartiality, objectivity and transparency of official statistics; and improve statistical authorities’ access to administrative data.

In presenting this report I would like to thank the Argentinian statistical authorities, in particular INDEC, for the strong co-operation they have offered and the professionalism they have presented throughout this process. I hope that this report will encourage Argentina to continue its efforts to strengthen its national statistical system so as to bring it fully into line with international standards, especially those set out in the Recommendation of the OECD Council on Good Statistical Practice. The OECD stands ready to continue its co-operation with the Argentinian authorities and all official producers of statistics in Argentina in the pursuit of this endeavour.”

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