



Vision and Policy Intent

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Government does not yet have a National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS).

The RMI Government [National Strategic Plan \(NSP\) 2020–2030](#) specified strategic policies related to data, statistics, and governance to be achieved by 2030:

- promote stable growth through responsible fiscal policy targeting stability in inflation,
- undertake environmental surveys focused on radiation monitoring, including data analysis and interpretation,
- strengthen budget management and financial oversight for planned priorities,
- strengthen dialogue between national and local government and the private sector, and enact a robust governance framework for effective partnership,
- align social and cultural goals with Sustainable Development Goals targets and indicators, and
- process data collection and analysis to populate the NSP annual development report.



National Statistical System

The RMI [Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office \(EPPSO\)](#), operating under the RMI [Statistics Act 1986](#), is the lead statistics agency, managed by the Director of Planning and Statistics who serves ex-officio as National Statistician.

Under the Statistics Act 1986, the EPPSO is established to act as an advisory body to the government and is responsible for the:

- development of sound economic policies and strategic planning, based amongst other factors, and
- analysis of statistical data representing the various subject matters in government operations and of the communities in the Republic.

Statistical activities are also undertaken by government departments, agencies, local government councils and statutory corporations.



Key Features

The RMI Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office is enacted to:

- provide for the collection, compilation, analysis and publication of certain statistical information, and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Data collection, most recent: [RMI 2021 Census](#), [HIES 2019/2020](#).

Dissemination – main publications: economics and social statistics, and census and surveys.

EPPSO has a web page for its [Statistical Releases](#).

ICT Statistical Infrastructure – EPPSO has developed its own website. It has online statistical mapping tools such as [RMI PopGIS3](#) supported by SPC, that is updated with 2011 Census data.

Other ICT: EPPSO has links to the [Pacific Data Hub](#), [Econ Map](#) and [SPREP Environmental Data Portals](#).



Coordination

The RMI EPPSO has responsibility to:

- collaborate with departments of the Government of the Marshall Islands in the collection, compilation, analysis and publication of statistics from administrative records, and
- establish, develop and maintain a coordinated system of social and economic statistics in relation to the Republic.

The RMI Statistics Act 1986 does not specify for the establishment of a Statistics Advisory Committee. However, the Act specifies that it is the duty of the National Statistician to:

- determine, in collaboration with governmental, semigovernmental and interested private bodies and organisations, standards for the collection, processing, and presentation of statistical information, and
- ensure that the standards are implemented by government agencies.



Challenges, priorities and opportunities

Key challenges as outlined in the RMI National Strategic Plan 2020–2030 that may also affect EPPSO performance include:

- small (Statistics Office) and isolated—means few facilities and limited employment opportunities
- high reliance on external support
- human capital underdeveloped—severe lack of specialised skills.

Key priorities as specified in the NSP 2020–2030 that might be relevant to RMI EPPSO include:

- catalyse external support for development from traditional and new partners,
- require efforts across a range of sectoral and cross-sectoral policy areas, planning and coordination,
- promote partnerships among public–private and civil society organisations,
- apply good governance to all areas of government and society through improving policies,
- enhance capacity of public servants and employees of public agencies, and
- resilience, in all dimensions, environmental, social, economic, etc.