

Vision and Policy Intent

The [Papua New Guinea \(PNG\) Government National Strategy for Development of Statistics \(NSDS\) 2018–2027 \(Volume 1\)](#) has a vision that by 2027, there will be a national statistical system (NSS) that conforms to international standards and best practices in the timely production of official statistics for evidence-based planning and governance.

The PNG NSDS identifies five strategic themes/objectives to achieve:

1. Strengthening the coordination of the NSS.
2. Developing human resource capacity of the NSS.
3. Strengthening the quality of the NSS products.
4. Dissemination, accessibility and utilisation of statistical information.
5. Advocacy for implementing and funding the PNG NSDS.

Other national policies and plans relevant to PNG NSO:

- Vision 2050,
- PNG Strategic Development Plan 2010–2030, and
- Sustainable Development Goals

National Statistical System

The [PNG National Statistics Office \(NSO\)](#) established in 1981 under the [Statistical Act 1980](#) is the lead statistical agency, managed by the National Statistician.

The PNG NSO is an independent institution and the central government agency in PNG responsible for:

- producing official statistics, including the conduct of surveys and census, and
- coordinating the collection and compilation of statistics.

Other data providers include: Bank of PNG, Departments of Agriculture and Industries, Civil Aviation, Corrective, Education, Forests, Health, Home Affairs, Mineral and Energy, Personnel Management, Police, Transport, Electoral and Electricity Commissions, National Weather Services, Post and Telecommunications, Magisterial Services, Insurance, Broadcasting, Housing and Weather Services.

Key Features

The PNG NSO guided under the [Statistical Act 1980](#) is enacted to provide statistical information to meet the needs of the government and its people for policy formulation and planning.

Data collection – most recent: [PNG 2011 Census Report](#). Currently the [Census 2021](#) is underway.

Dissemination – main publications: the [Consumer Price Index](#) and key economic statistics. Data are disseminated via paper, CD-ROM, website, online databases, databanks.

ICT Statistical Infrastructure – PNG NSO has developed its own website. It hosts information on general statistics, economics, population, migration, visitor arrivals and departures.

The main ICT activities in the NSDS are to:

- improve data collection, processing, analysis, production of official statistics, storage and dissemination of statistical data,
- strengthen access to data, and
- develop and improve the NSO website.

Coordination

The PNG NSO has a mandate to coordinate the State Agencies in the collection and compilation of data, analysis, dissemination and publication of statistics.

The PNG NSDS Implementation Plan 2018–2027 through its established NSS Coordination Structure had recommended various Committees and Working Groups to strengthen coordination and dialogue between the NSS agencies. This includes:

- PNG NSDS Steering Committee,
- Statistics Coordination Unit,
- Technical Statistical Committee,
- Statistics Working Group, and
- ad hoc Committee.

The Statistics Coordination Unit is an important intermediary unit between the statistics agencies of the NSS. It enhances communication mechanisms for effective and timely production of reliable core statistics.

Challenges, priorities and opportunities

Key challenges affecting NSO performance as outlined in the [PNG NSO Reform Strategy 2021](#) include:

- delays in producing the National Accounts and the National Population and Housing Surveys,
- ineffective Business Surveys,
- **Data collection** systems lack efficient networking,
- failure to develop cost effective ways of collecting data, and
- failure to effectively coordinate statistical systems, develop technical skills and established statistical units at provincial and sectoral agencies.

Priorities as outlined in the PNG NSO Reform Strategy 2021 on Strategic Actions for reform and revitalisation include:

- **executive and Organisational Management:** e.g., Review Statistical Services Act 1980,
- **strengthen NSS Products:** e.g., timely and quality production of economics, financial, social, demographic and population statistics, and
- **disseminate, Access and Utilise Statistics:** e.g. disseminate final statistics products to end users.