



Vision and Policy Intent

The Vanuatu Government [National Strategy for Development of Statistics \(NSDS\) 2024–2028](#) launched in 2024, has a vision that by 2028, Vanuatu will achieve a national statistical system recognised for providing timely and reliable statistics with strong partnership among stakeholders.

The Vanuatu NSDS 2024–2028 identifies four strategic objectives:

- Improved co-ordination and management of the Vanuatu national statistical system (VSS) within a robust institutional environment
- Better communication, access and use of statistics
- Effectively manage resources and increase statistical capability
- Improved quality and range of statistics to better meet user's need.

Other national policies and plans relevant to NSDS:

- Vanuatu NSDP 2016–2030.



National Statistical System

The Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO), established under the old Vanuatu Statistics Act 1983, is the lead statistical agency, managed by the Government Statistician.

Under the [Statistics Act of 2022](#), the VNSO, as an independent institution, [changed its name to Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics \(VBOS\)](#) and the Government Statistician changed to Chief Statistician.

Vanuatu has a centralised statistics system with VBOS responsible for:

- collection, production, analysis and publication of official statistics
- conduct of censuses and surveys
- coordination, production and dissemination of official statistics.

Other data producers of official statistics include the [Reserve Bank of Vanuatu](#), Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, other key Ministries and agencies.



Key Features

The VBOS, guided under the Statistics Act of 2022, is enacted for the collection, production, analysis and publication of official and other statistics.

Data collection – most recent [population and housing census 2020](#), [agriculture census 2022](#), [2022 Business Establishment Census](#).

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

VBOS has a [general data dissemination system \(GDDS SDMX\)](#) which provides data linked to a National Summary Data Page for Vanuatu.

ICT Statistical Infrastructure – VBOS developed its own [website](#) and has links to the NSO websites of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji plus Australia's ABS and Stats NZ.

Other ICT includes links to [Vanuatu PopGIS3](#), supported by SPC.



Coordination

The VBOS coordinates record producers, users and providers in Vanuatu for record collection and statistics production practices.

The Statistics Act of 2022 established a **National Statistics Advisory Council** to support the Chief Statistician on the operations and strategic direction of the Vanuatu Statistical System (VSS).

Statistics Advisory Council members include the:

- Director General of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management,
- Director General of the Office of the Prime Minister,
- Director General of the Ministry of Meteorology, Geological Hazards and Climate Change,
- Chief Statistician, and
- A representative from non-government organisations.



Challenges, priorities and opportunities

Key challenges affecting VBOS performance as outlined in the Vanuatu NSDS 2024–2028 include:

- inadequate Government funding to VSS,
- lack of an institutional framework for regular quality review, especially for administrative records,
- weak coordination among various stakeholders and exchange of information,
- lack of policy for information security, and
- lack of inter-links and co-ordination between various databases.

Priorities as specified in Vanuatu NSDS 2024–2028 include:

- sound policy and legislative framework for the VSS,
- strengthen partnerships, improve collaboration, co-ordination,
- adequate funding VBOS,
- improved supply of statistics,
- improve awareness on use of statistics for evidenced based decision making, and
- adequate and sustainable human, financial and institutional resources are in place.