



Vision and Policy Intent

The Palau Government does not yet have a National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS).

The Palau [Office of Planning and Statistics \(OPS\)](#) core business process has a mission to:

- establish, develop and maintain a general data dissemination system that provides reliable economic and socio-demographic statistics to support developmental planning and the formulation of appropriate economic and fiscal policies and their assessment
- establish, develop and maintain a public sector investment programme that monitors and evaluates the progress and effectiveness of the implementation of national and sector plans and strategies.

Other strategies and policies relevant to Palau's statistical system are:

- [Palau Environment Statistics and Systems of Environment Accounting \(SEEA\) - National Assessment Report 2017](#), and
- [Palau Pathway to 2030 – 1st Voluntary National Review on the SDGs](#).



National Statistical System

The Palau OPS operating under the Palau [Statistics Act of 2011](#) is the lead statistics agency, managed by the Director of the Bureau of Budget and Planning who supervises the Head of the Statistics Office.

Under the Statistics Act of 2011, the OPS as part of the [Bureau of Budget and Planning](#) is responsible for:

- establishing a framework for the collection of statistics to provide information required by the National Government of the Republic of Palau, state governments and businesses for the purpose of making policy decisions.

Other producers of official statistics as specified by the [United Nations Statistics Division](#) include:

- Ministries of Administration (economic statistics); Health and Education (health and education data); Justice (immigration statistics); Commerce and Trade (labour statistics),
- Environmental Quality Protection Board (new construction projects),
- Palau Visitor Authority (tourism statistics), and
- Customs (trade data).



Key Features

The Palau OPS guided under the Statistics Act of 2011 is enacted to:

- compile statistical data for purposes of national development and to facilitate planning, and for other purposes
- establish a framework for the collection of statistics to provide information for policy decision-making.

Data collection – most recent: [Palau 2020 Census of Population and Housing, 2014 Household Income and Expenditure Survey](#).

Dissemination – main publications: economics, socio-demographic and environment statistics, and [census and surveys](#). Latest statistical release, [2023 gender factsheet](#).

Statistical Infrastructure – Palau Statistical Office has a General Data Dissemination System which is linked to the Palau National Summary Data Page.

Other ICT product are: Palau OPS has online statistical mapping tools such as [Palau PopGIS3](#) supported by SPC, that is updated currently with 2015 Census data.



Coordination

The Palau OPS has responsibility to:

- facilitate a coordinated approach to statistics collection that produces useful information and eliminates duplication of requests for information, and
- collaborate with ministries, bureaux, divisions, and agencies and entities of the Government of the Republic of Palau in the collection, compilation, analysis, abstraction and publication of statistics from administrative records.

The Palau Statistics Act of 2011 does not specify for establishment of a Statistics Advisory Council. However, the Act specifies that it is the Duty of the Director to:

- promote, in consultation with the National Planning Committee, or similar authoritative body, and other users of statistics in the Government of the Republic of Palau, the collection, compilation and analysis of information required for development planning.



Challenges, priorities and opportunities

Key challenges as outlined in the Palau SEEA National Assessment Report 2017 that may also affect the Office of Planning and Statistics performance include:

- the lack of a central data repository across sectors—basic data is being compiled by many ministries and departments,
- data that is difficult to use—there is a need for better information for making decisions, and
- staff members need to have time to attend online and in-person training.

Key priorities as specified in the SEEA National Assessment Report 2017 that might be relevant to Palau OPS performance include:

- improved environment statistics, environmental economic accounts and related statistics, including the GIS information,
- national coordination mechanism of senior-level stakeholders,
- administrative sources of data, and supply and use tables for national accounts, key sources of data,
- data sharing agreement with OPS,
- training/capacity building—OPS identify 2–3 staff, and
- better data management and statistics.