

## Who we are

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) is an independent office under the Statistics Act 1993. We provide free, independent, statistical information to support and promote understanding and debate across government, business and society. Official statistics are a public good and an essential input to creating an informed society for the people of Ireland.

## Our Vision:

Independent insight for all

## Our Mission:

To describe Ireland, its people, society, economy and environment through verifiable data and accurate information while providing impartial insight.

## Our Mandate:

Our legal mandate is built on the Statistics Act 1993 and on EU Regulation 223/2009 and provides for us to:

- ▶ Collect, compile, extract and disseminate information for statistical purposes relating to social, economic and general activities and conditions of the state
- ▶ Coordinate Official Statistics compiled by public authorities,

so that we can provide the evidence and insight to inform decision making across all parts of Irish society.

## Our Values



### Independent

We are professional, objective, impartial and always act with integrity



### Trustworthy

We are transparent and honest. We comply with the highest international statistical standards and deliver high quality products and services in an ethical manner.



### Confidential

We apply the highest standards of confidentiality and respect for data privacy. We comply with the terms of the Statistics Act, 1993 and the GDPR and we legally guarantee to only ever use data provided to us for statistical purposes.



### Serve the Public

We are engaged with our customers and use our expertise to deliver a quality public service



### Continuously learning

We are ambitious, always horizon scanning and focused on innovation and collaboration.

## Our Strategic Aims

1

Turn data and statistics into information and knowledge for all

### Continue to

- Deliver on our extensive national and European statistical programme
- Promote the range, quality, availability and accessibility of our products and data services
- React swiftly to support the Civil and Public Service (CPS) to respond to urgent policy, planning and strategy needs
- Develop innovative statistical products and new data sources, to provide greater insight for our users
- Engage with our users and stakeholders to identify their priority needs
- Deliver more citizen focused products using improved communication channels and interactive tools
- Maximise the relevance of our outputs to ensure they provide insight on the key issues of interest to Irish society, businesses and policy makers

### Continue to

- Raise awareness of the CSO's values and of our ethical use of data
- Develop a transparent trust framework for our website, based on the Statistics Act, 1993, to increase user understanding of how we do, what we do, for the public good and in the public interest

### Continue to

- Facilitate the use of appropriately governed and anonymised microdata for decision makers and the broader research community

2

Embed the CSO's data coordination (Data Stewardship) role in the Civil and Public Service

### Continue to

- Develop the role of the CSO as coordinator and data steward of data holdings across the Civil and Public Service (CPS) in line with the Statistics Act, 1993 and EU Regulation 223/2009 and increase the value and utility of data sources across the CPS by continuing to
  - Increase our visibility, knowledge of our data services and engagement across the CPS
  - Drive the use of the National Data Infrastructure (NDI) unique identifiers (PPSN, Unique Business Identifier (UBI) and Eircode) and the increased transparency of data across the CPS (data discoverability)
  - Develop and roll out of common standards, rules and guidelines to govern the classification, storage and management of data (NDI+)
  - Support the development of Quality Management Frameworks (QMF) across the CPS
  - Provide long term or short term professional statistical staff to the CPS
  - Develop bespoke pathfinder projects with the CPS to provide evidence and insight on key policy issues

### Continue to

- Identify, explore and increase the use of administrative, privately held and publicly available data sources for the production of Official Statistics, in collaboration with data suppliers
- Support national and international efforts to legalise access to privately held data sources for the purposes of creating Official Statistics
- Develop a secure platform and environment to facilitate access to appropriately governed microdata (data rooms service)

### Continue to

- Develop the Irish Statistical System (ISS) in line with the National Statistics Board (NSB) Strategy for Statistics, the European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP), the Irish Statistical System Code of Practice (ISS CoP), and the CSO's Quality Management Framework (QMF) and Quality Strategy
- Consider the CSO's role in the context of the EU Data Governance Act and the EU Data Act.

3

Modernise our statistical, technological and administrative processes and systems

### Continue to

- Modernise our statistical processes and systems to provide more frequent, timely and granular evidence and insight for our users
- Ensure the integrity of our statistical, technological and administrative systems and processes
- Embed effective data governance controls in all the systems and processes
- Use new technologies and methodologies, as appropriate, to improve statistical processes and systems and share that knowledge with the CPS
- Maximise the use of administrative data to facilitate a burden reduction for our respondents

### Continue to

- Develop the CSO's data architecture to create a service model where data is stored and managed centrally
- Develop our digital data collection abilities
- Consolidate our quality developments, which are grounded in solid methodology, within the statistical production lifecycle

### Continue to

- Develop a greater range of tools to support collaboration in the CSO's modern working environment
- Develop more, easy to use dissemination tools that allow users to effortlessly engage with our data
- Examine privacy preserving analytical tools to facilitate the possibility of real time anonymised data access for researchers
- Develop the CSO's geospatial skills and tools to facilitate the delivery of more granular data and insights and to facilitate a more efficient, greener field data collection process
- Assess the ethical use of artificial intelligence and machine learning

4

Continue to build the capacity of our people

### Continue to

- Promote a culture of equality, diversity, inclusion and high performance
- Encourage innovation, staff engagement and an involvement climate
- Comply with our Public Sector Duty
- Be an Employer of Choice so we can recruit and retain the skills required to meet our strategic aims

### Continue to

- Encourage and support personal and professional development
- Develop statistical professionalism in the CSO, amongst seconded staff and throughout the CPS
- Develop and professionalise supports to meet business needs and to improve organisational effectiveness
- Engage with our international networks to build the capacity of our people and organisation
- Work to deliver on our Climate Action Roadmap
- Deliver on our energy-reduction goals
- Provide an excellent customer service for our users, respondents and data suppliers





- 1 Turn data and statistics into information and knowledge for all
- 2 Embed the CSO's data coordination (Data Stewardship) role in the Civil and Public Service
- 3 Modernise our statistical, technological and administrative processes and systems
- 4 Continue to build the capacity of our people



STATEMENT OF STRATEGY 2024–2025

Independent insight for all

During the lifetime of the Strategy, the CSO will continue to progress statistical development where new or emerging themes are recognised such as:

