

IFC-sponsored Invited Paper Sessions (IPS) at the 66th ISI World Statistics Congress, Lusaka, Zambia, 11-15 July 2027

18 September 2026

1. Making further progress in the development of commercial real estate indicators	1
2. The evolution of official statistics: challenges and opportunities in innovative statistical products.....	2
3. Mind the gap: acting before the standards catch up.....	3
4. Statistical cooperation in Africa: a central banking perspective	4
5. Micro data sharing.....	5
6. Using AI to improve quality of and access to reference information.....	6
7. Carbon statistics, carbon disclosure and carbon accounting	6

1. Making further progress in the development of commercial real estate indicators

Proposal description:

Monitoring developments of commercial real estate (CRE) markets is of high importance for macroprudential policy. A comprehensive surveillance benefits from shedding light on the multi-faceted nature of CRE markets using various indicators (e.g. prices, rents, rental yields, vacancies) with a sufficient degree of disaggregation. In addition to aggregate headline measures capturing the overall CRE market trend, breakdowns by object types (e.g. office, retail, industry, logistics, multi-family dwellings) and by regions as well as in a prime/non-prime split help policymakers pay due attention to the CRE market-inherent heterogeneity. Progress has been made in developing data sources, advancing statistical methodologies and implementing practical index compilation procedures. Country examples show that it is important to get started, focusing first on those indicators and segments of the CRE market for which enough data is available and sound methods are implementable. Extending the list of indicators, broadening coverage, refining breakdowns etc. are enhancements which may be achieved step by step if more comprehensive data sources become accessible and methodological developments progress further.

2. The evolution of official statistics: challenges and opportunities in innovative statistical products

Proposal description:

Official statistical agencies increasingly find themselves navigating the dual pressures of reducing bureaucracy while addressing the growing and evolving needs of users in a complex and rapidly changing world. Simultaneously, there is mounting pressure to lower costs for both reporting entities and statistical compilers, while optimizing the efficient use of existing resources. Innovative statistical products that aggregate granular data offer promising solutions to these challenges. These products are based on the "collect data only once" principle and follow the "multipurpose approach", for instance using data for statistical as well as supervisory purposes. Statistical products based on granular data also have the potential to replace multiple existing aggregated surveys, thereby standardizing reporting obligations, minimizing reporting burdens, and improving efficiency.

For users, these new statistical products based on granular data provide greater flexibility, allowing for purpose-driven aggregation and easier integration with other datasets. However, they also present unique challenges. Their economic interpretation can be complex, particularly for non-experts, and reporting entities may encounter difficulties that necessitate targeted measures to ensure data quality. Furthermore, the technical utilization of these datasets is complicated by their large volume and intricate structure, while anonymization and compliance with data protection regulations become increasingly demanding.

This session will explore the experiences of official statistical authorities in managing granular data, focusing on data aggregation, compilation, and dissemination, as well as insights from users of these datasets. Presentations will highlight best practices, address challenges, and discuss the opportunities created by technical innovation in the field of official statistics.

Topics to Explore:

- **Granular Data vs. Aggregated Data:** Exploring the advantages and limitations of granular data as basis for official statistics compared to traditional aggregated data. This includes the role of granular data in modernizing statistical systems, meeting diverse user needs, and supporting multipurpose use while reducing reporting burdens (one example being AnaCredit). Case studies can highlight successes, challenges, and lessons learned.
- **Flexible and On-Demand Statistical Products:** Demonstrating how granular data enables the creation of flexible, on-demand statistical products that adapt to evolving real-world user needs. This includes addressing the technical and organizational requirements for producing customizable outputs.
- **Best Practices for Aggregation:** Discussing methodologies, algorithms, and frameworks for aggregating granular data into meaningful statistical outputs. Emphasis on ensuring consistency, reliability, and high data quality.

- **Statistical Communication of Complex Data:** Strategies for presenting aggregated statistics derived from granular data in an accessible and user-friendly manner. This includes addressing challenges in interpretation, ensuring transparency in methodology, and contextualizing outputs—especially when combining multiple datasets.
- **Data Quality and Integration and the use of AI:** Addressing issues such as data validation, error detection, and consistency across large, complex datasets. Exploring the use of machine learning and artificial intelligence for these purposes. Additionally, techniques for integrating multiple granular datasets, including overcoming challenges in data matching and harmonization.
- **Balancing Data Utility and Privacy:** Examining the balance between data utility and privacy, including innovative approaches to anonymization and compliance with data protection regulations. Highlighting how to develop innovative statistical products while adhering to legal and regulatory requirements.

3. Mind the gap: acting before the standards catch up

Proposal description:

The release of the 2025 SNA and BPM7 has renewed attention to the critical role of internationally harmonised macroeconomic statistics. Yet economic, financial, and technological systems continue to evolve at a pace that outstrips the revision cycle of statistical manuals. Digitalisation, climate transition, new business models, geopolitical shocks and shifting user expectations create information needs that cannot wait for formal standardisation.

In this context, statistical authorities face a dual responsibility: preserving the stability and international comparability of the statistical system, while ensuring that official statistics remain relevant, credible and responsive to emerging realities. When timely evidence is not provided, the vacuum is quickly filled by partial estimates, weak proxies or misleading narratives. The consequences can affect public trust, policy debates and the perceived authority of official statistics.

This session will examine how statistical authorities can innovate responsibly in the inter-revision space. It will explore when and how to develop experimental statistics, how to govern and communicate pre-standard outputs, how to manage their lifecycle, and how to prioritise innovation when resources and methodological readiness vary. The session will also draw lessons from recent areas of experimentation, including the digital economy, climate, fintech, crypto-assets and real-time indicators, and consider the role of international cooperation in preventing fragmentation.

Topics to explore:

- experimental statistics as a bridge between emerging phenomena and future standards
- governance models for non-core or pre-standard statistical outputs
- communicating uncertainty, maturity and revision risk

- balancing user demand versus methodological readiness
- case studies on the digital economy, climate, fintech, global value chains, platform work, crypto-assets, or real-time indicators

Guiding questions:

- What criteria should statistical authorities use to decide when an emerging phenomenon warrants an experimental output, and when it should remain at the research stage?
- How can institutions prioritise innovation areas when resources, expertise and data access are limited?
- What governance arrangements best ensure that pre-standard outputs remain transparent, accountable and clearly distinguished from core statistics?
- How should statistical authorities manage the lifecycle of experimental statistics – from launch to evaluation, revision, integration into standards or discontinuation?
- Which communication strategies are most effective in preventing misinterpretation of early-stage indicators while still meeting urgent user needs?
- What practical lessons can be drawn from recent experiments (e.g., digital economy, climate, fintech, crypto-assets) regarding data access, methodology, collaboration and user engagement?
- How can international cooperation mitigate the risk of divergent national innovations undermining future harmonisation?

4. Statistical cooperation in Africa: a central banking perspective

Proposal description:

The main purpose of the session is to advertise the opportunities provided by the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics (IFC) to support statistical cooperation in the African region. The IFC is a global network of central bank statisticians, economists and policymakers who discuss statistical and data issues of interest to central banks and develop related methodological work. IFC institutional members comprise central banks and international and regional organisations formally involved in central banking issues. The Committee, set up under the BIS umbrella now represent 110 jurisdictions, including 14 in Africa.

An important *raison d'être* for the IFC is to provide opportunities for its members to network and exchange experience, through different ways: organisation of meetings to present case studies and analyse best practices; set up of surveys on specific issues of interest to central banks' statisticians; dedicated publications; and provision of statistical resources. These activities have led the IFC to develop statistical and data management guidance for the benefit of central banks and the public at large. Moreover, the Committee has set up a dedicated access-restricted platform on statistical methodological issues to support the development of in-house central banks' statistical expertise. Lastly, the IFC has promoted various initiatives to foster general statistical and economic literacy.

Topics to explore:

- Fostering cooperation among African central banks in statistics and data management issues.
- Ensuring the insertion of African priorities in the international statistical agenda.
- Ways for enhancing knowledge sharing and cooperation in Africa.
- Role of new data standards eg SDMX especially in the new AI/ big data information era.

5. Micro data sharing

Topics to explore:

There is increasing interest in central banks and more generally in the global statistical community to facilitate the use of granular data. More and more institutions are making their micro data sets available to internal analysts as well as external researchers and counterpart institutions based on proper data sharing agreements and processes (eg statistical disclosure controls).

These developments are opening new opportunities for both the producers and users of data. Producers are developing innovative ways for managing the quality of source information and creating accurate and relevant statistics at different aggregation levels. And the expansion in data collection, data availability and computing power has resulted in corresponding growth in the empirical grounding of research and policymaking.

But dealing with granular data creates challenges, raising important information governance issues. The integration of data coming from various sources, combined with the use of innovative and often opaque technologies, raises organisational difficulties to ensure proper data collection, compilation and dissemination. And the production and use of high-quality, reliable and trustworthy data calls for having adequate methodological frameworks, information standards and infrastructure, as well as a holistic view of the available data being managed.

This session will review the experience of statistical and other authorities dealing with granular data, focusing on data quality management and processing as well as on ways to enhance data access and sharing. It will showcase best practices, as well as the challenges faced and the opportunities provided by technical innovation. It will also take stock of international efforts to improve the global statistical infrastructure related to the handling of granular data and foster data-sharing. In Europe, for instance, an Integrated Reporting Framework is being set up to integrate statistical requirements, providing a key opportunity to better standardise data collection and transformation processes across countries. At the global level, efforts are put on developing an international micro data standard in coordination with SDMX in the context of the G20 Data Gaps Initiative.

Another key initiative, led by a group of central banks, NSOs and international organisations, is the International Network for Exchanging Experience on Statistical Handling of Granular Data. This INEXDA network provides a platform for administrative data producers to exchange experiences in making granular data accessible for research purposes. The session will provide an opportunity to

introduce the network to the global statistical community by summarizing key insights developed throughout INEXDA's history. This will highlight both the commonalities and the diversity of solutions developed to address similar challenges, emphasizing how various approaches have been shaped by technical, administrative, and organizational factors. These findings will provide valuable guidance for organizations considering how to make their data available.

The session will be organised in close cooperation with INEXDA, several NSOs and international organisations; presentations will benefit from the vast experience accumulated by IFC central banks representing 110 jurisdictions worldwide.

6. Using AI to improve quality of and access to reference information

Proposal description:

Public reference information is needed for businesses and authorities to ensure safety and efficiency of business process. Does this business still exist and which is its address so that it is safe to contract with it? What are commonly shared key reference information (identifiers, location, activity) to support risk analysis?

For these reasons, authorities have supported the building of public reference information. In 2014, the G20 has created the LEI which now covers 3 million uniquely identified legal entities worldwide, mostly financial, which their relationships. In Europe, implementing regulations to open data directive (implementation 2024) defines a subset of reference information (incl. activity and legal form) as a high-value dataset to be made publicly accessible by public sector bodies through API and bulk download. More recently, Digitalisation directive to be implemented in July 2028 adds key information on relationships.

However, information is still scattered in different data basis, with different identifiers and rules for updates. It is frequently uncomplete, in particular when it comes to parents' relationships. To facilitate search and improve data quality and completeness, several actors interested in reference information have developed AI approach. Following a survey by its members, the Regulatory Oversight Committee (ROC) has now engaged in exchanges of information about the projects they develop. The objective is to share success and failures, foster possible synergies and facilitate industrialisation and scaling up. This shows that interest concentrates around a small number of objectives and tools: 1) the matching of data basis to improve data quality 2) the extraction of unstructured data on parent relationships mostly from financial statements 3) Chatbot to support data basis search.

7. Carbon statistics, carbon disclosure and carbon accounting

Proposal description:

To a large degree, climate transition is an information problem. Users need to understand the carbon footprint of their products, including their own emissions during usage. Producers need to

control the carbon content of their inputs, in order to manage the carbon content of their own output. Investors need to understand the risk implied by the carbon footprint of their portfolios. Government authorities need information on direct and indirect emissions of companies. Importers need information on what happens in the source countries. For all of these purposes, effective micro level information management needs to be combined with aggregate, industry level information on the interactions along the value “chain”

Setting up efficient micro and macro-level information systems is a formidable challenge. Recent months, however, have seen important progress on all aspects of this challenge:

- Company level carbon accounting is leapfrogging towards a standard that may make it an effective tool in value chain management. *Carbon Measure* is a union of large producers, consultancies and accounting companies working on joint rules. Carbon measures can build on initiatives from the *E-Ledger Institute*, *CASI* and others. Cumulative carbon accounting carries over the principles of traditional cost accounting to inform about emissions. Progress shall be charted and evaluated.
- Carbon accounting needs underpinning by statistics. Eurostat is preparing the publication of data on embodied emissions for all country-industry combinations of its flagship Input-Output model, FIGARO. The IMF is preparing the publication of MARIO, a world-wide interregional IO model of unprecedented scale, that will be extremely useful for sustainability.
- The European CBAM is evolving, and experiences can be evaluated. How can the carbon content of imports and of EU producers be evaluated reliably, to keep down indirect emissions and to protect producers that invest in avoidance technology? Can the data induced by CBAM be used for statistics?
- The ECB is actively developing its statistics on climate risk. The data on portfolio footprints of financial institutes shall embrace information on Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions. At the same time, new methods are being developed to estimate downstream emissions based on aggregate and micro-level data. This work and its progress shall be discussed and evaluated.
- In the EU, the CSRD has been redesigned. Large producers – not only those operating within the EU -- will have to report many details on their environmentally relevant activities, specifically on their emissions. Disclosures will be largely standardised and centrally available, which is the precondition for good statistics. A collaboration between statisticians in European statistical offices and central banks attempts on making efficient statistical use of this new and valuable information. What are the perspectives of this work for the near future and the medium run?

The proposed session will make visible these developments and connect them. It can build on the experience of two large IFC sponsored workshops, Hamburg 2024 and Amsterdam 2025, as well as a very lively and informative exchange on the ISI World Statistics Congress in The Hague.