



## Frequently Asked Questions

What are the National Statistics Institutes? (INE, according to the Spanish acronym)

The National Statistics Institutes –INE- are the entities in charge of statistical information in the different countries. Colombiestad ([www.colombiestad.gov.co](http://www.colombiestad.gov.co)) provides links to the INE web pages worldwide.

### What is DANE?

The National Administrative Department of Statistics -DANE- is the entity responsible for the planning, collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination of Colombia's official statistics. As part of the executive branch of Colombian government and with over 50 years of experience, DANE complies with the highest quality standards and currently provides the country and the world with more than 30 research projects in the fields of economics, industry, population, agriculture, and quality of life, among others. This work, together with the application of modern technologies for the collection, processing, and dissemination of data, and the human qualities of the members of the organization, have allowed DANE to strengthen the knowledge, confidence, and statistical culture of Colombians, thus reaffirming its leadership status in the fields of statistics in Colombia.

### What is the Integrated Household Survey (GEIH according to the Spanish acronym)?

The Great Integrated Household Survey is a survey which collects information regarding people's work conditions (whether they are employed, where they work, how much they earn, whether they have social security health coverage or whether they are seeking employment), as well as information about the general characteristics of the population, such as sex, age, marital status and educational level; sources of income and expenses (what they purchase, how often they do so and where). The GEIH provides information at the national, urban, rural, regional, and department levels, as well as for each one of the department capitals.

### What is the Basic Information Certification Process?

The objective of National Basic Information Plan –PlanIB– (2006 – 2011) is to improve the quality and reliability of the information through the review, redesign, and certification of all the databases and statistical research projects that generate information: DANE, IGAC and the EPIB (Basic Information Producing Entities).

National Government Decree 3851 ordered the creation of a great repository of statistical and geographic information, known as the Colombian Data Infrastructure –ICD (according to its acronym in Spanish), whose importance for the formulation and follow-up of policies and programs is strategic. In order to be incorporated into the ICD, the data bases must obtain a Basic Information Quality Certificate -CI- issued by the National Administrative Department of Statistics -DANE- on the basis of an inspection carried out by a Committee of Independent Experts–CEI- made up of at least three professionals with competences in the field, selected among university professors, international experts, and data users, and managed by the Andean Center for Higher Studies, CANDANE.



### **What is basic information?**

It is the statistical, geographic, demographic, and territorial information that serves as the basis for decision-making.

### **What is the Colombian Data Infrastructure –ICD?**

It is a management system for basic official information for public use, consisting of a framework of standardized data, adequate for transmission, quality assurance, processing, dissemination, and electronic exchange of data between generators and users.

### **What is a census?**

A census is the count of each and every one of the elements of a population or a universe, in a given place and at a given time.

### **What are Annual National Accounts?**

The term refers to a statistical synthesis technique whose purpose it is to provide a quantified representation of the economy of a country or a region during a given period of time. The Gross Domestic Product is the sum of all the added values generated by the economic activity of a country, that is, of all the final goods and services produced by the country during a given time period.

### **What is demography?**

Demography studies phenomena such as birth, marriage, fecundity, and mortality rates; migrations; employment; and education. These demographic variables are not autonomous, but rather depend on socio-economic and cultural conditions, while at the same time influencing them.

### **What are surveys?**

The purpose of surveys is to obtain specific statistical information. In sample surveys, a part of the population considered to be representative of the total population is selected. A reduced form of a sample survey is the opinion survey, which is used only to collect data about what a number of individuals think about a given issue.

### **What are Vital Statistics?**

Vital statistics are continuous statistics regarding births, deaths, and marriages, which make it possible to maintain a flow of information revealing the changes occurred in mortality, fecundity, and nuptiality levels and patterns, thus providing a dynamic view of the population which complements the static view provided by censuses.

The System of Vital Statistics currently registers information about both fetal and non-fetal births and deaths. It is expected that in the future the other vital statistics will be included.



### **What is geostatistics?**

Geostatistics is the study of spatial variables on the basis of statistical data with specific characteristics gathered from a macro sample.

### **What is a household?**

The person or group of persons, whether relatives or not, occupying the totality of a housing unit, satisfying basic needs on the basis of a common budget and often sharing food.

### **What are data collection methods?**

Depending on the method used to collect information, data can be collected through surveys, censuses, and registers. The purpose of surveys is to obtain continuous statistical information from a sample of the population, while censuses and population registers have a wider scope and extension.

There are different types of surveys: sample surveys, opinion surveys, or pilot studies.

### **What are Unsatisfied Basic Needs –UBN-?**

Identifying the Unsatisfied Basic Needs of a population is a fundamental tool for decision-making since it makes it possible to detect critical lacks and establish poverty levels. In Latin America, population and housing censuses serve as the basis for identifying UBNs, since they provide information that is broken down geographically, a necessary requirement for generating a map showing local, regional, and national poverty, and reflecting the population's essential needs.

### **What is population?**

Also called universe or collective, population is the set of individuals, items, or data from which a statistical sample is taken.

### **What is the Gross Domestic Product – GDP-?**

The GDP is the total monetary value of the normal production of a country's final goods and services during a period of time (generally, a quarter or a year). The GDP may be calculated at factor cost or according to market prices. The relationship between these is obtained by subtracting the net indirect taxes related to production (indirect taxes less subsidies) from the GDP calculated according to market prices.

### **What is statistical confidentiality?**

In the specific case of the National Administrative Department of Statistics -DANE: "The data provided to this entity in the process of carrying out censuses and surveys cannot be revealed to the public, nor to official entities or organizations, nor to the public authorities, except in the form of numerical summaries from which it is impossible to infer any type of individual information that could be used for commercial, tax, or police investigation purposes, or for any other purpose different from the strictly statistical".