



# Quality policy of FFA for production and dissemination of statistics

## 1 Quality commitment

As a producer of public statistics for Switzerland and Europe, the FFA endeavours to provide trustworthy sources of information. To this end, it pays particular attention to professional independence and the high quality of its products and services. With this document, the FFA undertakes to ensure the high quality of the statistics it produces.

In the FFA, the Financial Statistics Section is responsible for the production and dissemination of statistics.

Based on the Federal Statistics Act (in particular Articles 1, 3, 14, 15 and 18) and the Ordinance on the Conduct of Federal Statistical Surveys (in particular Articles 3a, 3b and 9), the FFA is obliged to produce statistics that comply with national and international best practice requirements in this field and in particular with the [European Statistics Code of Practice](#). According to the requirements of the European Statistics Code of Practice, public statistics must:

- meet the needs of users;
- be objective, accurate and reliable;
- be published in a timely and punctual manner;
- be generally accessible and understandable;
- be comparable over longer periods of time and with other sources of information;
- be coherent with other sources of information;
- be produced in a cost-effective way and with little burden for those surveyed;
- comply with the specifications regarding data protection and IT security;
- be based on scientifically sound, solid and repeatable processes.

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The FFA also undertakes to continuously improve the production of statistics with the help of periodic internal or external evaluations, among other things.

## 2 Statistical activities of the FFA

According to the Confederation's multi-annual statistical programme and the bilateral agreements with the European Union, the FFA and in particular its Financial Statistics Section, which is responsible for the production and dissemination of statistics, are essentially responsible for the following statistics on government unit finances (general government sector):

- Statistics according to international standards
  - Statistics on government units' finances according to the standards of the Government Financial Statistics Manual (GFSM2014) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) ⇒ GFS Model.
  - Provision of data on government units' finances for the national accounts of the Federal Statistical Office (BFS) and for the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) in accordance with the international standards of the European System of Accounts (ESA2010) ⇒ ESA model).
  - Provision of data for the Revenue Statistics and the Quarterly Public Sector Debt Statistics of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
  - Preparation of quarterly figures on government units' finances for the IMF within the framework of the SDDS (and the SDDS Plus from 2020) in accordance with the GFSM2014 standards.
  - Preparation of quarterly figures on government units' finances for Eurostat according to the ESA2010 standards
- Statistics according to national standards
  - Statistics on government unit finances in accordance with the national standards of the 2008 Harmonized Accounting Model for the Cantons and Municipalities (HAM2) ⇒ FS Model

The FFA provides comprehensive statistical information. Included are:

- statistical results (press releases, data, reports);
- explanations of the concepts, methods and processes;
- metadata (charts of accounts of national and international models, fact sheets);
- technical notes on changes, corrections, adjustments made;

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- analyses.

### 3 Main users

This information is produced in particular for international organisations (IMF, OECD and Eurostat), for government units (Confederation, cantons and communes) in Switzerland, for public services, for economic, academic and scientific circles and for the general public and is used for opinion-forming, decision-making, planning and research.

### 4 Organisational measures

The management of the FFA ensures that the principles, objectives and measures set out in this document are relevant, known and complied with.

The Financial Statistics Section implements the quality policy in its field of expertise by developing the necessary tools and processes for optimal statistical production in line with the framework conditions laid down in this policy.

### 5 Entry into force

This policy came into force on 01.12.2018.

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