



The Performance of the Statistical Centre
of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries
of the Gulf (GCC-STAT)

Annual Report

20
15

We welcome you

in our 2015 annual report, which is considered as another attempt towards achieving our strategic objectives through the execution of work plans. It confirms our continuing efforts towards the development and promotion of the Gulf statistical work system through the provision of reliable and high quality statistics in accordance with international and regional recommendations.

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We are



A reliable source and a dynamic driver of the GCC statistical system.



Provide decision-makers, researchers and those interested with well established statistical knowledge.



Relevance
Integrity
Excellence
Professionalism
Collaboration.

GCC-STAT

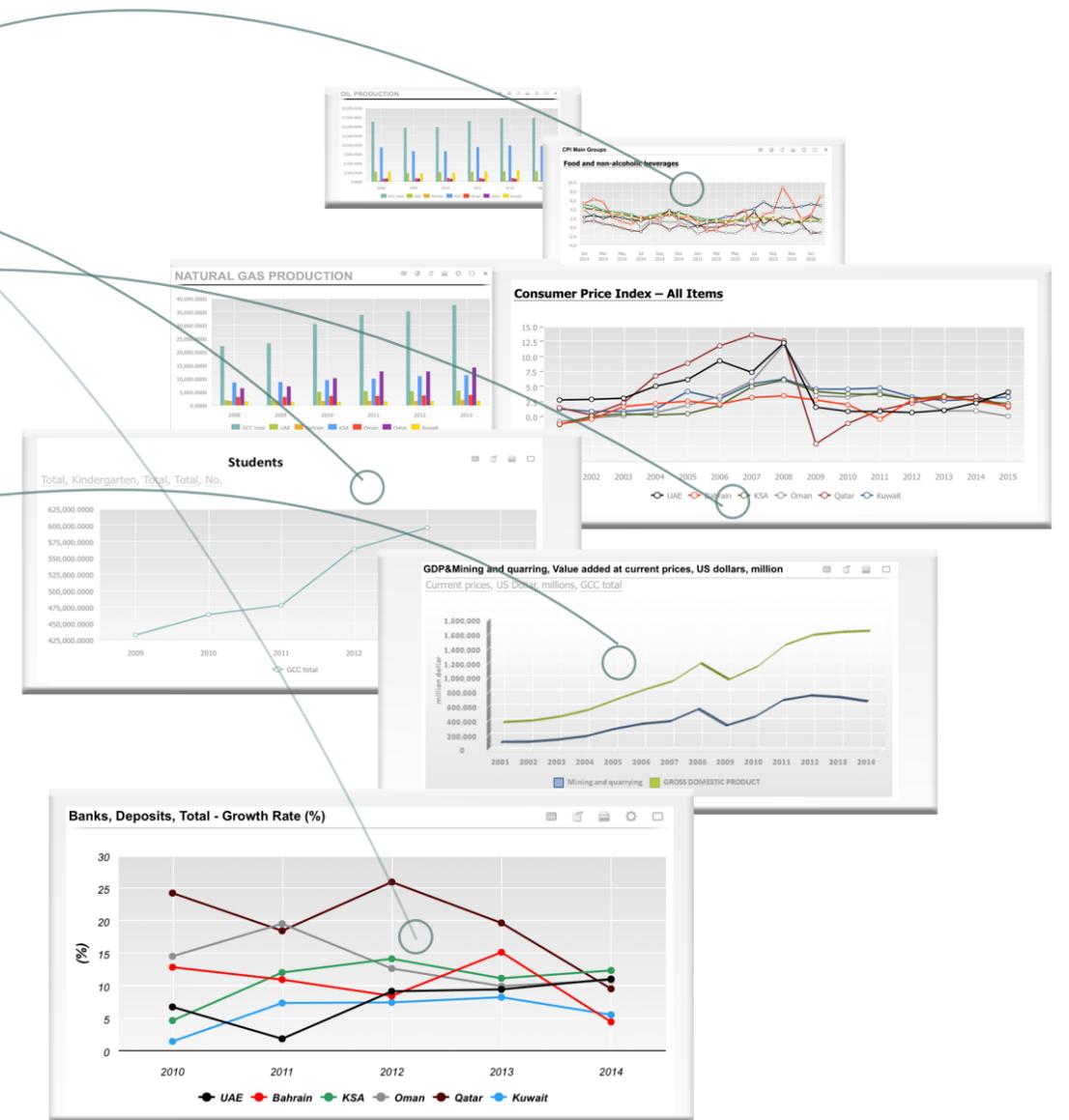
Intelligent Application of the GCC-STAT



Includes GCC statistics in various economic, social, and population sectors through one smart window to facilitate data usage.

GCC-STAT Portal

Price Statistics, National Account, Energy and Environment, Monetary and Financial Statistic



Two years

of developing
strategic objectives
into achievements

2014 - 2015

GCC-STAT seeks to achieve the strategic objectives in the following statistical areas:

- National Accounts;
- Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics;
- Price Indices and Short-term Statistics;
- Foreign Trade Statistics;
- Labor Statistics;
- Energy and Environment Statistics;
- Development, Progress and Sustainability Indicators;
- The Harmonized Register-Based 2020 Census;
- Enhanced Use of Administrative Data Sources for Statistical Purposes;
- Standards, Classifications, Methodologies and Data Quality;
- Ongoing Assembly, Dissemination and Analysis of Statistics;
- Cross-Cutting Institutional Activities.
- Tourism Statistics.

Highlights of GCC-Stat's Achievements

- Preparation and implementation of Member States Strategic Plans ;
- Developing and publishing a harmonized Consumer Price Index (CPI);
- GCC-STAT mobile application;
- Developing an economic model to predict the most important macroeconomic indicators;
- Develop and execute a system of transmission tables to Collect data and metadata from GCC countries;
- Launching the GCC-STAT data portal on the GCC-STAT website;
- Implementing user needs assessment to identify the data needs of 14 organizations affiliated with GCC;
- Establishing the foundations and the frameworks necessary to finalize the infrastructure of the center.

Towards the Implementation of GCC-STAT Statistical Strategic Plan and the Accompanying Roadmap 2015-2020



Key Performance Indicators for the Center 2014 -2015

Governance and Policies

2014

- Regulation of the authorities and duties of the board of directors.
- Eight of financial and administrative policies(draft).
- Eight of technical policies(draft).

2015

- Information security policy.
- Procedural framework for the statistical analysis of key social, economic and environmental phenomena in the GCC countries.
- Green policy.
- Change management policy.
- Dissemination policy.
- Implementation of eight financial and administrative policies.
- Implementation of eight technical policies.

334
expert/day



39

Technical Assistance Missions

29



Committee and Working Group Meetings

25



Workshops and Training Courses

14



Number of Regional and International Cooperations

54



Statistics Publications

INDEX

Committee and Working Group Meetings

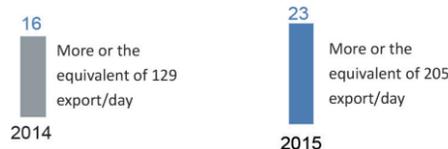


HIGH

23%

INDEX

Technical Assistance Missions



HIGH

44%

INDEX

Workshops and Training Courses

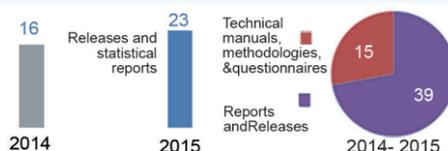


HIGH

27%

INDEX

Statistics Publications



HIGH

44%



A Message from the Chairman of the Board

H.E. Nasser Saleh Al Mahdi

As we bid farewell to the previous year and welcome a new year, we stand proud of the remarkable achievements made in line with the planned milestones.

It was quite gratifying for GCC-Stat's staff and directors that the efforts exerted to expand the Center's work at the regional level, and establish a broad ground of successful international relations have paid off, which is contributing to further development of human resources and work streams. In this respect, I would like to commend the active role of GCC-Stat in providing support to the GCC national statistical centers.

It is an honour to extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the GCC member states for their earnest endeavour to make GCC center successful. Our thanks are also due to the Sultanate of Oman, for hosting GCC-Stat's headquarter and providing every possible help to achieve its mission.

On behalf of myself and fellow Board members, I am pleased to express our sincere thanks to GCC-Stat staff members for their diligent efforts, sincerity and dedication, which have contributed to the success and advancement of the Center.

We all hope that GCC-Stat will continue to achieve the desired objectives, with an aim to become a center of excellence, in line with the ambitious goals set by the Board members.

With my best regards,

Members of Board of Directors



H.E. Nasser Al Mahdi

Chairman of the Board of Directors
Director of Censuses, Household Survey, &
Statistical Methods Department, in Ministry of
Development Planning and Statistics
State of Qatar



H.E. Dr. Khalifa Al Barwani

Member of the Board of Directors
CEO of the National Centre for Statistics and
Information
Sultanate of Oman



H.E. Abdulla Nasser Lootah

Member of the Board of Directors
Director General of Federal Competitiveness
and Statistics Authority
United Arab Emirates



H.E. Mona Khalaf Al Dhass

Member of the Board of Directors
Director General of Central statistics Bureau Acting
State of Kuwait



H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al Amer

Member of the Board of Directors
President of Central Information Organization
Kingdom of Bahrain



H.E. Sabir Al Harbi

Member of the Board of Directors
Director General of GCC Statistical Center of Cooperation
Council for the Arab States of the Gulf



H.E. Dr. Fahad Al Tekhaifi

Member of the Board of Directors
Chairman of the General Authority for Statistics
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



H.E. Abdullah Al Shibli

Member of the Board of Directors
Assistance Secretarial General for Economic Affairs of GCC
Secretariat General
Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf



A Message from the Director General

H.E. Sabir Al Harbi

GCC-Stat achievements in the previous year represent a continuity of the work plan set to achieve the Center's objectives and to complete the establishment of its infrastructure. The collective and concerted efforts of the Member States have made these achievements possible. All those who have contributed should take pride as this reflects their strong belief in the importance of the GCC statistical system and the strategic and active role of GCC-Stat in statistical data and information, which provide a major support to sustainable development.

One of the most successful achievement of the center was the establishment of a wide and board range of regional and international relations in the field of statistics. We firmly believe that the building of such base will have a positive impact on GCC statistics, as it will enable us to access the experiences and realities of others and exchange expertise in many aspects. In addition, capacity development is at the center of GCC-Stat's efforts due to its importance in promoting the GCC capabilities in order to keep pace with the growing demands for statistical products. The current world economic conditions put a growing emphasis on statistical data and information, which are the focus of the Center.

It is our pleasure to present this brief report about GCC-Stat's achievements in 2015, promising to keep up the progress in service of the GCC countries. I wish to extend sincere thanks to the Chairman and the Members of the Board for their unlimited support, to the host country and to all GCC-Stat staff members for their persistent efforts and hard work.

With my best regards,

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Recommendations to Strengthen Coordination within the GCC National Statistical System

GCC-STAT Statistical Strategic Plan and the Roadmap 2015-2020



Executive Summary

Towards the Implementation of Best Practices and Statistical Requirements



2015

13^{GCC} Statistical Development Projects

- The GCC Ministerial Council approved the GCC-Stat Statistical Strategic Plan and the accompanying Roadmap 2015- 2020, in its 136th session, held in Riyadh on 15 September 2015.
- Consistent with the approved work program for 2015, GCC-Stat completed the following:
 - (15) technical papers, manuals, and technical documents related to the statistical projects.
 - (23) technical assistance missions to member states. An average of 1.9 missions per month were conducted, involving a total of 205 expert-days, at an average of 17.1 expert-days per month.
 - (14) workshops were organized, representing an average of 1.2 workshops per month. These workshops were attended by 257 participants from national statistical centers, government entities in the member countries, and GCC organizations.
 - (16) committee and working group meetings were held, with an average of 1.33 meetings per month. A number of these meetings and bilateral technical meetings with member states took place through web-conferencing.
 - (5) internal policies regulating work in the center were issued. These covered statistical dissemination, information security, green policy, draft change management policy and a procedural framework for the statistical analysis of key social, economic and environmental phenomena.
- The GCC-Stat data portal, providing a range of detailed data, was launched.
- The first Consumer Price Index (CPI) at the GCC level was issued.
- The Center issued a number of economic and social statistics publications.
- GCC-Stat is leading the coordination in statistics between regional and international organizations and the GCC countries, to avoid conflicting activities and duplication of efforts. As part of this coordination, GCC-Stat established a strategic partnership with seven international and regional organizations. This also helped in the implementation of the 2015 Work Program.
- GCC-Stat participated in the exhibition organized in conjunction with the World Statistics Congress (WSC) of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 26-31 July 2015.
- GCC-Stat celebrated World Statistics Day, on 20 October 2015, by awareness raising activities in the media (television, radio, social media) and participation in the 2nd Global Conference on Big Data.

GCC-STAT Strategic Objectives



GCC-Stat's strategic objectives as follow:

- Build and strengthen the statistical and institutional capacity of member countries, to meet the statistical requirements at the national, regional and international levels;
- Promote and improve the quality and quantity of statistical products on a sustainable basis;
- Project the GCC region as a unified economic and social entity;
- Develop, expand and market statistical dissemination;
- Establish joint work programs between the national statistics centers in member countries and GCC-Stat;
- Unify the national statistics strategies in GCC countries in accordance with best international practices;
- Promote the culture of statistics to raise the awareness of statistics, and its importance in evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation in GCC countries;
- Ensure that the GCC region has an effective presence in international statistical development;
- Ensure long-term organizational sustainability of GCC-Stat.

In order to achieve these strategic objectives, the following five themes were identified:

Table (1) Themes identified to achieve the strategic objectives

No.	Theme	Details
First	Assembly, Analysis and Regular Dissemination of Data and Statistical Information	This includes the regular assembly, analysis and dissemination of statistical data and information (including population, social, economic, environment, etc. data) that are of interest to decision and policy makers, researchers, planners, regional, Arab and international organizations, and society in general. The collection of these data takes place through data and metadata transmission tables prepared by GCC-Stat, in agreement with the national statistical centers. Statistics are aggregated at the GCC level whenever possible, following the approved data dissemination policies and procedures. A range of statistical reports and bulletins covering various important topics are issued on a regular basis.
Second	Development and Harmonization of Statistical Work	Statistical development in GCC countries aims to achieve relevance and consistency by using standardized concepts, methodologies and reference periods for statistical operations; adopting the latest international and GCC standards and classifications; and promoting cooperation at national and regional levels. Cooperation is promoted at the GCC level through GCC-Stat's support of existing committees and working groups, forming new working groups and committees, to ensure full implementation of the strategic plan and work program; and the provision of technical assistance to countries.
Third	Development of Statistical Capacities	The development of GCC statistical capacities is achieved through the provision of all technical training and support requested by national statistical centers. GCC-Stat also supports the establishment of national working groups to serve the implementation of the strategic plan and work program.
Fourth	Cross-Cutting Institutional Activities	This theme seeks to harmonize national statistical strategies in GCC states, build a culture of statistics and promote statistical awareness, develop institutional statistical capacities, ensure the active presence in international and regional statistical development, and ensure the sustainability of GCC-Stat.
Fifth	Support Programmes	GCC-Stat seeks to ensure that work progresses as required, through the provision of human, financial, and ICT resources and the enhancement of their capacities, so that the implementation of projects and programmes contributes to achieving the required strategic objectives.

GCC-Stat seeks to achieve the strategic objectives based on the themes set out above while focusing on the following statistical areas:

- 1- National Accounts;
- 2- Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments statistics;
- 3- Price indices and short-term Statistics;
- 4- Foreign Trade statistics;
- 5- Labor Statistics;
- 6- Energy and Environment Statistics;
- 7- Development, Progress and Sustainability Indicators;
- 8- The Harmonized register-based 2020 Census;
- 9- Enhanced Use of Administrative Data Sources for Statistical Purposes;
- 10- Standards, Classifications, Methodologies and Data Quality;
- 11- Ongoing assembly, dissemination and analysis of statistics;

The Center also is implementing a comprehensive program dealing with all the common statistical work, as follow:

- 12- Cross-cutting institutional activities.

The Project for Development of Tourism Statistics has been added:

- 13- Tourism Statistics.

Finally, to ensure that work progresses as required to achieve the agreed objectives, GCC-Stat implements the following support programmes:

- A- Information and communication technologies;
- B- Human resources;
- C- Financial and administrative work.

Table (2) The relationships between the strategic objectives, the themes, and the projects and programmes

No.	Themes	Strategic Objectives of the theme	Projects and Programmes Contributing to the Achievement of Objectives
First	Assembly, Analysis and Regular Dissemination of Data and Statistical Information	1st objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects 1- 8 • Project no. 11 • Project no. 13
Second	Development and Harmonization of Statistical Work	1st and 2nd objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects 1- 10 • Project no. 13 • Programme no. 12
Third	Development of Statistical Capacities	3rd objective mainly, though the theme serves all objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects from 1- 11 • Project no. 13 • Programme no. 12
Fourth	Cross-Cutting Institutional Activities	objectives from 4-9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme no. 12
Fifth	Support Programmes	all objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes A, B & C.



Governance and Policies

First: Governance



The GCC Ministerial Council approved the GCC-Stat statistical strategic plan and the accompanying roadmap 2015-2020, in its 136th Session, held in Riyadh on 15 September 2015.

The GCC-Stat board of directors held three meetings in 2015, where many important issues were discussed, and key decisions made, including adoption of the work program for 2016 and 2017 as well as important policies.

With regard to internal governance in GCC-Stat, a number of internal committees were operational and held regular meetings as per their terms of reference. These committees include the Human Resources Committee (5 meetings), the Dissemination Committee (12 meetings), the Tender Committee (7 meetings), the Information Security Steering Committee (3 meetings), the Training Needs Committee (2 meetings), and the Procurement Committee (7 meetings).

Second: Policies



To further establish a solid institutional base building on what was achieved in 2014, GCC-Stat prepared the following policies in 2015:



Procedural framework for the statistical analysis of key social, economic and environmental phenomena in the GCC countries



Dissemination policy



Information security policy



Change management policy (draft).



Green policy



Key Performance Indicators of the Statistical Centre

of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of
the Gulf in

2015



- 1- Assembly, Analysis and Regular Dissemination of Data and Statistical Information
- 2- Development and Harmonization of Statistical Work
- 3- Development of the Statistical and Institutional Capacities
- 4- Cross-Cutting Institutional Activities
- 5- Support Programmes

Guide for the GCC Publications

2014 –2015



Volume 1, 2015

1- Performance Indicators of Assembly, Analysis and Regular Dissemination of Data and Statistical Information

1- GCC-Stat issued the first Consumer Price Index (excluding the housing group) at GCC level, i.e. at the level of the six countries as a bloc. The index is a key indicator for decision makers to develop coordinated economic policies.

2- The Center developed an economic model to forecast key macroeconomic indicators. This model is in its final stages.

3- GCC-Stat prepared data and metadata transmission tables for all priority statistical areas and sent them to member states. The Center receives data on a regular basis from GCC countries in several statistical fields. It has also assembled data for other statistical fields through the websites and data portals of member states.

4- The Center has prepared an action plan for a new project aiming to prepare an inventory of available databases and to collect them from member states. This project will facilitate and increase the efficiency of statistical data flows received from national statistical centers. A working group was formed to start implementing the plan.

5- The new GCC-Stat data portal was launched. It includes detailed data of some statistical sectors—namely CPI, national accounts, monetary statistics, education, health, energy and environment. Other data are being added to the portal.

6- The following GCC-Stat statistical releases were issued in 2015:

- Marriage and Divorce Bulletin in the GCC countries;
- Labor Market Statistics in the GCC Countries 2012;
- Monthly Statistical Bulletin (electronic version);
- Economic Performance of the GCC Countries in 2013;
- GDP of the GCC Countries in 2014 (electronic version);
- CPI in the GCC Countries in 2014 (electronic version);
- Development of Consumer Price Indices in the GCC Countries;
- Monthly Statistical Bulletin of Inflation of the GCC Countries for several of months
- Development Indicators in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries;
- General CPI for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (GCC inflation) –1st issue.

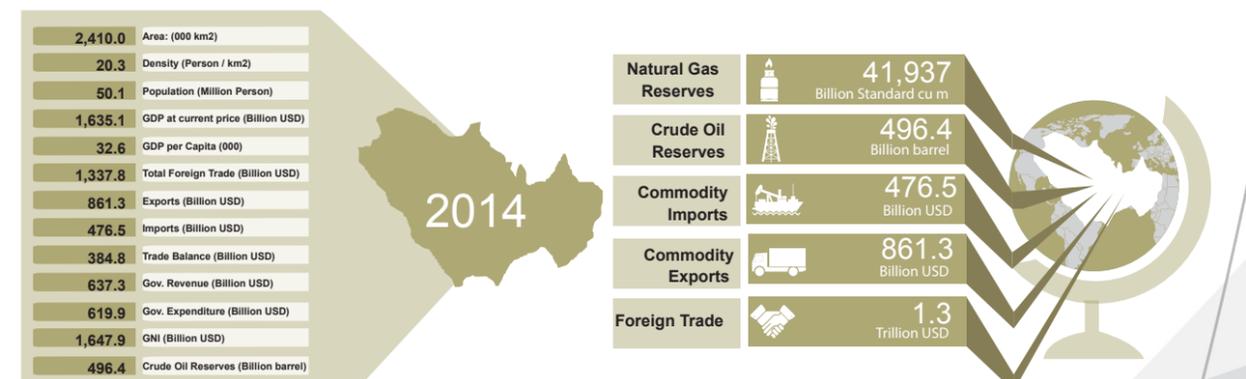
At the end of 2015, the following statistical releases were being designed or printed:

- The Statistical Yearbook of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries 2014;
- A Statistical Overview of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries 2014;
- The Statistical Bulletin of Inflation in the GCC Countries;
- Traffic Accident Statistics Bulletin in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC);
- GCC Countries in Figures (Foreign Trade);
- Gulf Cooperation Council Countries Trade with China.

The following bulletins had been prepared by the end of 2015, but were still being reviewed:

- Foreign Trade Statistics Bulletin;
- Annual Bulletin of Financial Statistics;
- Foreign Investment Bulletin;
- National Accounts Bulletin.

• GCC-Stat distributes its releases to their Excellences the Ministers of Planning and Finance in the GCC countries, the presidents of central banks, the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council and other GCC organizations, in addition to many national universities and institutions in the GCC countries. The releases are also published on the GCC- Stat website.



2- Performance Indicators of Development and Harmonization of Statistical Work

- The statistical strategic plan approved by the Ministerial Council includes clear roadmaps and work programmes, to achieve harmonization and consistency for each priority statistical projects over the 2016 - 2020 period. These are, based on the latest standards and classifications. of
- The Board of Directors agreed to include tourism statistics as the 11th statistical priority project. A specific strategic plan and work program for this project will be developed in 2016.

I- Technical manuals, methodologies, and questionnaires:

- GCC-Stat prepared a number of technical manuals, methodologies and questionnaires as follow:

1- Questionnaire to assess the current status of the statistical system at the national level in the GCC countries:

This questionnaire aims to assist member states to assess the current status of the national statistical system. The results of this assessment can then be analyzed to develop of appropriate strategies to build a more effective national statistical system, in the framework of a national strategy for statistical development. .

2- GCC Code of Practice for Statistical Work (draft):

The code provides a set of principles for the development and improvement of the statistical system of the Gulf Cooperation Council on a uniform basis. This ensures the integrity and consistency of the system to fulfil its mission to provide necessary statistical data to different users at the national, regional and international levels. These principles also represent the basic rules of the system to ensure the quality of the various stages of the statistical work, and the quality of statistical production.

3- List of energy products:

GCC-Stat prepared a manual including a list of the most commonly used energy products in the region. This statistical manual on energy products includes five chapters: coal, oil and oil products, natural gas, renewable energy and electricity.

4- Guidelines on adapting and revising the coding of business records:

This guide covers the essential steps necessary to apply the latest classifications of economic activities.

5- Labour statistics between administrative data and statistical surveys in the GCC countries (technical paper):

The paper shows the importance of the different data sources of labour statistics, including both administrative records and statistical surveys. It draws attention to the differences between the two labour data sources, and to the pressing need for sample-based labour force surveys to provide some labour market indicators that administrative records cannot.





6- Pre-Conditions for the Implementation of the Annual Harmonized Labour Force Survey

These preconditions represent the basic steps towards the implementation of a harmonized labour force survey, which will enable GCC-Stat to provide aggregate annual harmonized labour statistics at the GCC level.

7- Manual on the Reference Concepts for the Implementation of the Harmonized Annual Labour Force Survey in the GCC countries in 2017:

This is a manual for all labour force statisticians and staff in the National Statistical Centers in the GCC countries, to assist in the implementation of the Harmonized Annual Labour Force Survey 2016. The manual explains all related international standards and concepts.

8- Minimum Questions to Implement the Harmonized Annual Labour Force Survey in the GCC countries 2017 (technical questionnaire):

This questionnaire includes the minimum required questions and variables that the Harmonized annual Labour Force Survey 2016 should include and which will serve as a basis for the survey outputs. The aim is to assemble and disseminate harmonized annual labour statistics at both the country and GCC level.

9- Pre-conditions for an Administrative Census in GCC countries:

These prerequisites are considered the most necessary requirements to support the preparation and implementation of the registers-based census. The list is based on principles and recommendations for Censuses of Population and Housing, Revision 3, approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2015, and supplemented by the experiences of other countries that has adopted this approach.

10- The Methodology of Harmonized Price Indices (draft):

This methodology includes the outline of the harmonized index, as well as the coverage, weights, basket of goods and other technical standards.

11-Ten Recommendations for Improving Coordination within the National Statistical Systems in the GCC countries:

These recommendations primarily aim to provide national statistics centers in the GCC countries with a brief summary of the major international recommendations related to ensuring the sustainability and improving coordination and cooperation within the national statistical systems of the countries. This will in turn contribute to improving the productivity, quality and harmonization of the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data and information. It will also contribute to promoting the statistical culture, highlighting the statistical work and raising awareness of its importance.

12- A Technical Paper on the Principles and Recommendations of the Population and Housing Census, the third revision (draft):

This provides an “Executive summary of the principles and recommendations of the United Nations for the 2020 census cycle” It reviews the latest set of principles and recommendations for the 2020 Census round, prepared in March 2015 by the United Nations Statistics Division in collaboration with the member states, which were approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission. This paper gives temporary guidance to the GCC countries about the international recommendations until the official arabic version approved by the United Nations is issued in late 2016.

13- GCC Data Quality Assurance Framework (draft):

GCC-Stat prepared a draft Quality Assurance Framework for statistical data for the GCC countries. This document is intended to provide the necessary guidance to enable the national statistical centers to implement the GCC Statistical Code of Practice.

14- Manual for Labour Statistics Indicators in GCC countries (draft):

It presents all labour indicators, the importance of the indicator, its methodology and how it is calculated. The manual also describes the data sources that can be used to compile these indicators (statistical surveys of administrative sources). This manual particularly reviews all the new indicators introduced in 2013, in the new ILO standards adopted at the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians. This manual is intended for all staff working on labour statistics, users of labour statistics and other interested parties.



15- Concept paper on business registers:

GCC-Stat prepared a concept paper that includes key statistical concepts and terms related to the business and establishment registers, in order to standardize the definitions and concepts and reduce the differences in the statistics produced by various data producers.

II- Meetings of Committees and Working Groups

GCC-Stat organized 16 meetings of committees and working groups, which resulted in a number of recommendations discussed and agreed upon by the representatives of member states. These meetings were as follows:

- 1- The second meeting of focal points in the GCC national statistical centers;
- 2- The first meeting of the Working Group on energy statistics;
- 3- The second meeting of the Committee on the Harmonized Registers-based 2020 Population Census;
- 4- The first meeting of the Working Group on Labor Statistics;
- 5- The second meeting of the Working Group on price indices and short-term indicators;
- 6- The second meeting of the Directors in charge of training in the GCC national statistical centers;
- 7- The first meeting of the Working Group on Environment Statistics;
- 8- The third meeting of the Committee on the Harmonized Registers-based 2020 Population Census;
- 9- The second meeting of the Standing Committee on Population and Social Statistics;
- 10- The first meeting of the Working Group of the Harmonized Foreign Investment Survey;
- 11- The first meeting (web video conference) of the Working Group on Administrative Registers;
- 12- The second meeting of the Standing Committee on Economic Statistics;
- 13- The second meeting of the Committee on National Accounts;
- 14- The second meeting of the Working Group on Labour Statistics;
- 15- The first meeting of the Standing Committee on Development, Progress and Sustainability Indicators;
- 16- The third meeting (web video conference) of the Standing Committee on Population and Social Statistics.



3-Performance Indicators of Development of the Statistical and Institutional Capacities

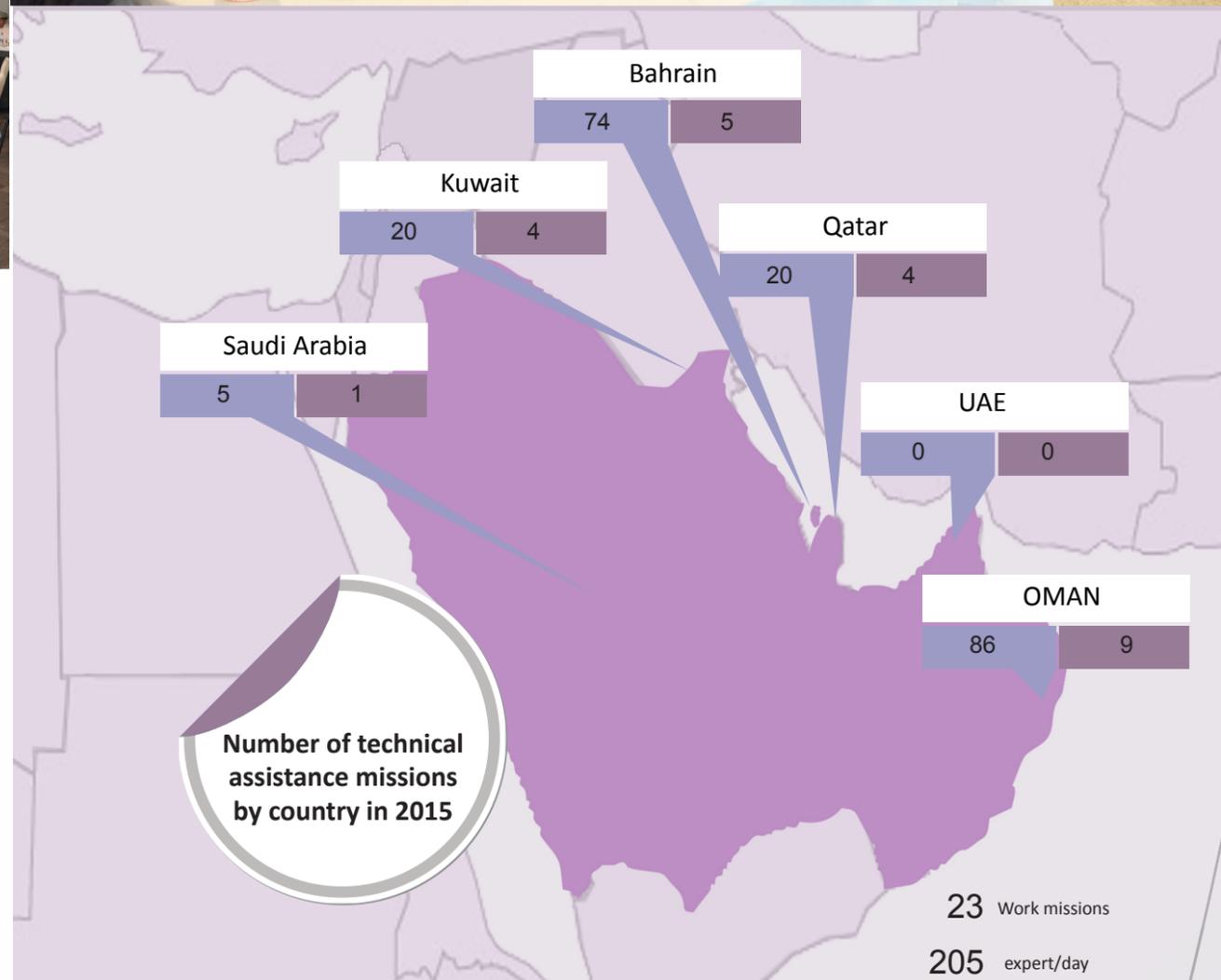
GCC- Stat carried out numerous activities aiming to develop statistical and institutional capacities in GCC countries. These efforts included, the following:



I: Technical assistance to member countries:

GCC-Stat provided direct technical assistance to 5 member countries in 2015, with a total of 23 missions, amounting to more than 205 experts-days in the following areas:

1. Development of Producer Price Index (PPI) and Adding New Sectors to the Index;
2. Sampling;
3. Statistical legislation;
4. Statistical Code of Practice;
5. Data Quality Assurance Framework;
6. Register-based Census Assessment.
7. Foreign Trade Statistics;
8. Foreign Investment Statistics;
9. Sustainable Development Goals Indicators;
10. Energy Balances;
11. Environment Statistics Standards;
12. Classification of Economic Activities.



■ Number of technical assistance missions
■ Number of working days

II. Specialized seminars, workshops and training courses organized by GCC-Stat:



14

Workshops and
Training Courses

257

Participants from
National Statistical
Agencies

2015

1- Regional workshop in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund: Macroeconomic Statistics Interlinkages in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 17 – 19 March 2015:

The workshop aimed to enhance the understanding of the international standards of macroeconomic statistics in the statistical system in the GCC countries, explain the interrelations between the macroeconomics datasets, discuss users' requirements to ensure the effective management and monitoring of macroeconomic policies, and to promote the exchange of knowledge and cooperation between producers of macroeconomic statistics. This workshop also raised awareness of the methodologies required to compile macroeconomic statistics in the region. It was attended by 22 participants from statistical agencies, finance ministries and central banks in the GCC countries (see table below).

Table (3) Number of participants in the regional workshop on macroeconomic statistics interlinkages in the GCC countries

State	UAE	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Organizations and other entities *	Total
No. of participants	–	3	5	5	4	4	1	22

* GCC Monetary Council.

2- Regional workshop on the harmonized Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the GCC countries, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 24-26 March 2015:

The general objective of this workshop was to gather professionals working on price statistics in the GCC member countries, to discuss the concepts and methodologies used to measure inflation in the GCC countries. The workshop also exchanged international expertise on the development of a regional methodology to compile a harmonized consumer price index. GCC-Stat organized this workshop in collaboration with experts from EUROSTAT and the IMF Statistics Department. This workshop was attended by 18 participants (see the table below).

Table (4) Number of participants in the regional workshop on the harmonized Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the GCC countries

State	UAE	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Organizations and other entities *	Total
No. of participants	–	2	3	8	2	2	1	18

* GCC Monetary Council.

3- Regional workshop on the Organization and Institutionalization of Training in the GCC countries, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 30 March 2015:

In collaboration with the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority (FCSA) in the United Arab Emirates, GCC-Stat organized a workshop on the organization and institutionalization of training in the GCC countries. The workshop gathered all statistical training managers in the national statistical centers in the GCC countries, and aimed to build capacities in the institutionalization of the training procedures in the GCC countries. This workshop was attended by 12 participants (see the table below).

Table (5) Number of participants in the regional workshop on the organization and institutionalization of training in the GCC countries

State	UAE	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	GCC-Stat	Total
No. of participants	6	1	–	1	1	–	3	12

4- Workshop on Country Practices in Register-based Censuses in the GCC countries, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 17-19 May 2015:

GCC-Stat organized this workshop to support the implementation of registers-based censuses, and build a clear understanding of how to manage and plan these censuses, including the necessary conditions that must be taken into consideration to start an administrative census. It also dealt with basic census issues including planning, budgeting, data structure, and data quality assessment during the census cycle. This workshop was attended by 10 participants (see the table below).

Table (6) Number of participants in the workshop on country practices in the registers-based censuses in the GCC countries

State	UAE	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Total
No. of participants	8	1	–	1	–	–	10

5- Regional Workshop on Water Statistics in the GCC countries, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 18-20 May 2015:

GCC-Stat organized this workshop to promote the understanding of international standards of water statistics, and to explain the interrelations between water datasets and preparation of the water balance, in addition to promoting knowledge sharing and cooperation among water statistics producers. This workshop was attended by 15 participants (see table below).

Table (7) Number of participants in the regional workshop on water statistics in the GCC countries

State	UAE	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Total
No. of participants	2	2	–	10	–	1	15

6- Training Course on the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) in the GCC countries, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, 18-20 May 2015:

GCC-Stat organized this training course, in collaboration with the Central Informatics Office of Bahrain (CIO) and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), to review the General Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), its structure, characteristics and the advantages of adopting it to promote official statistics quality and efficiency. This course was attended by 27 participants (see the table below).

Table (8) Number of participants in the training course on using the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) to improve the quality of official statistics production in the GCC countries

State	UAE	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	GCC-Stat	Total
No. of participants	-	23	–	2	–	–	2	27

7- Workshop on Energy Balance statistics in GCC countries, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 14-16 June 2015:

The general objective of this workshop was to promote the understanding of international standards of the energy sector statistics in the GCC statistical system, in addition to explaining the interrelations between energy datasets and the preparation of energy balances. The workshop also discussed users' requirements to improve and disseminate energy balance statistics, and how to promote knowledge sharing and cooperation among energy statistics producers. This workshop was attended by 10 participants (see the table below).

Table (9) Number of participants in a workshop on energy balance statistics in GCC countries

State	UAE	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Organizations and other entities *	Total
No. of participants	1	1	–	2	1	1	4	10

* Authority for Electricity Regulation, Oman; Ministry of Oil & Gas, Oman; and Qatar Petroleum, Qatar.

8- Training Course (through video-conferencing) on the Conceptual Foundations of Statistical Business Registers, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 8-9 September 2015:

The statistical business register is the foundation stone for the establishment of a statistical system for the business sector in the country. Data sources are produced by more than one government entity. This course aimed to present the conceptual foundations of the business register in order to support the administrative records project carried out by GCC-Stat in collaboration with the GCC national statistical centers. This course was attended by 49 participants (see the table below).

Table (10) Number of participants in the training course on the conceptual foundations of statistical business registers

State	UAE	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Total
No. of participants	–	4	34	2	3	6	49

9- National Training Workshop on Foreign Investment statistics, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, 26 July-6 August 2015:

This training workshop aimed at training the participants to compile inward and outward foreign investment statistics in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and to train statisticians to read and analyze the balance sheet and financial data. It was attended by 7 participants (see the table below).

Table (11) Number of participants in the training course on foreign investment statistics in Bahrain

Entities	Informatics & e-Government Authority, Bahrain	Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB)	Total
No. of participants	5	2	7

10- Workshop on International Standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Kuwait, 1-3 November 2015:

The general objective of this workshop is to help labour statisticians in the GCC countries to adopt and conform with international standards. It was attended by 25 officials representing the national statistics centers and other labour data producers in the GCC countries (see the table below).

Table (12) Number of participants in the workshop on international standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

State	UAE	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	GCC-Stat	Organizations and other entities *	Total
No. of participants	2	1	2	3	1	13	2	1	25

* Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs in the GCC States – Executive Bureau.

11- National workshop on Environment Statistics Standards, Kuwait, 1-5 November 2015:

GCC-Stat organized a special workshop on environment statistics standards at the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) in Kuwait. The workshop was attended by 25 specialists and officials from CSB and other concerned national entities (see the table below).

Table (13) Number of Participants in the National Training Workshop on Environment Statistics Standards

Entity	Central Statistical Bureau (CSB)	Kuwait Oil Company	Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources	Meteorological Department	Ministry of Public Works	Ministry of Electricity and Water	Environment Public Authority	Total
No. of participants	6	3	1	1	5	3	6	25

14- Workshop to Review the National Plans to Implement, in 2020 the harmonized register-based Census of Population, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 22-24 November 2015:

The general objective of the workshop is to develop and enhance practical knowledge in planning and budgeting registers-based censuses of population and housing in the GCC region through better understanding the frameworks for such census as well as the basic concepts for planning them. The workshop was attended by 14 participants (see the table below).

Table (16) Number of Participants in the Workshop to Review the National Plans to Implement the Harmonized Register-based 2020 Population Census

State	UAE	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Other organizations and entities*	Total
No. of participants	-	1	2	1	1	2	1	8

* Information Technology Authority (ITA), Sultanate of Oman.

12- National workshop on Energy Balance Statistics, Kuwait, 8-12 November 2015

GCC-Stat organized a special workshop on energy balance statistics at the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) in Kuwait.

The workshop was attended by 10 specialists in energy statistics from the CSB and other concerned authorities (see the table below).

Table (14) Number of Participants in the National Workshop on Energy Balance Statistics

Entity	Central Statistical Bureau (CSB)	Kuwait Oil Company	Ministry of Oil	Ministry of Electricity and Water	Total
No. of participants	4	3	1	3	11

13- Workshop on Real Estate and Construction Price statistics, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman 10-12 November 2015:

The general objective of this workshop is to define the national and regional priorities in the development of real estate and construction price statistics, and to present the latest international developments in this field. It also aims to gather the real estate and construction price statisticians to discuss the national and regional priorities in the field of statistics, in addition to the treatment of housing services in the CPI. This workshop was attended by 21 participants (see the table below).

Table (15) Number of Participants in The Workshop on Real Estate and Construction Price Statistics

State	UAE	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Organizations and other entities*	Total
No. of participants	-	-	3	6	1	1	7	18

*Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), Ministry of Justice (Saudi Arabia), Central Bank of Oman (CBO), Qatar Central Bank (QCB), Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK).

Table (17) Total number of Participants in 2015 events Organized by GCC-Stat

No.	State	Event	UAE	Bahrain	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar	Kuwait	Regional organizations	Total
1		Regional workshop in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund on macroeconomic statistics interlinkages	-	3	5	5	4	4	1	22
2		Regional workshop on the harmonized CPI	-	2	3	8	2	2	1	18
3		Regional workshop on the organization and institutionalization of training	6	1	-	1	1	-	3	12
4		Workshop on the country practices in the censuses based on administrative records	8	1	-	1	-	-	-	10
5		Regional workshop on water statistics	2	2	-	10	-	1	-	15
6		Training Course on the Generic Statistics Business Process Model (GSBPM)	-	23	-	2	-	-	2	27
7		Workshop on energy balance statistics	1	1	-	2	1	1	4	10
8		Training course on the conceptual foundations of statistical business registers	-	4	34	2	3	6	-	49
9		National training course on foreign investment statistics in Bahrain	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
10		Training course on international standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO)	2	1	2	3	1	13	3	25
11		National training workshop on environment statistics standards in Kuwait	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	25
12		National training workshop on energy balance in Kuwait	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	11
13		Workshop on real estate and construction price statistics	-	-	3	6	1	1	7	18
14		Workshop to review the national plans to implement the Harmonized Registers-based 2020 Population Census	-	1	2	1	1	2	1	8
		Total	19	46	49	41	14	66	22	257

•To increase the efficiency of services provided by GCC-Stat to develop the statistical capacities in GCC countries, the Center adopted a policy based on identifying the training needs through a special questionnaire sent to all member states. It also prepared a Guide for Training and Statistical Capacity Development Activities in 2015.

4- Performance Indicators of Cross-Cutting Institutional Activities:

After our commitment to strengthen relations with regional and international statistical institutions by signing international cooperation agreements aiming the develop the gulf statistical system .It was testament to highlight the province of GCC-STAT as unified economic and social entity.



I. Regional and international cooperation:

1- GCC-Stat Continued to Build up Relationships and Implementing its Program in Close Cooperation with the Following Regional and International Organizations:

- UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)
- Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- The World Bank
- United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
- EUROSTAT
- MENA Centre for Investment



2- Based on the GCC-Stat strategic objective of enhancing cooperation with regional and international organizations, the Center participated in the 46th United Nations Statistics Commission Session in New York in February-March 2015. The Center also organized a number of side meetings with 10 regional and international organizations, attended by representatives of the GCC countries.

3- Following an invitation from the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, The League of Arab States, Cairo; the Director General visited the League of Arab States to discuss ways of cooperation and coordination of statistical programs and activities.

4- In April 2015, the Center organized a coordination meeting with the organizations active in statistical work in the GCC region. The meeting aimed to better coordinate and harmonize the efforts undertaken by these institutions, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to reduce the burden on GCC countries. This meeting was attended by the following organizations:

- United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA
- Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS)
- Arab Monetary Fund (AMF)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)– Beirut Office
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- MENA Centre for Investment
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - Cairo Office.

5- GCC-Stat participated in the exhibition organized in conjunction with the World Statistics Congress (WSC) of the International Statistical Institute (ISI 2015), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 26-31 July 2015. The Center set-up a special stand entitled “Statistics for Development”. The aim was to highlight the statistical work carried out in the GCC countries and by GCC-Stat, and to highlight the remarkable socioeconomic development achieved by GCC countries through the display of selected development indicators. In addition, many models of successful automation applications were displayed. The key partnership title was “Statistics for Development.” The stand received remarkable attention from conference participants at all levels including senior officials, academics, students and researchers, with more than 2000 visitors from 97 countries.



6-The Second International Big Data Conference, Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), 20-22 October 2015:

GCC-Stat organized, jointly with the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority (FCSA) of the UAE and in cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the Second International Conference on using Big Data for Official Statistics Purposes. More than 20 countries, 14 international organizations and a number of experts and statisticians from regional and international levels attended the conference. The conference agenda focused on the outputs and the methodological lessons learnt from the projects completed to date. GCC countries presented on projects related to using big data for statistical purposes. The conference also dealt with the progress made towards the preparation of manuals and guidelines that contribute to benefitting from big data to produce statistics and information that serve decision-makers, and how the countries starting to work in this context can make use of these lessons in order to save time, efforts and money. The conference provided a regional and international forum to exchange ideas, lessons learned and success stories.

7- Visits to GCC organizations, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 8-9 November 2015:

The GCC-Stat Director General paid visits to the following organizations:

- GCC Standardization Organization;
- The Executive Board of the Health Ministers' Council for the GCC States;
- GCC Monetary Council;
- The General Secretariat of the GCC – Information Affairs Sector.

The program of the visits included raising awareness of the GCC-Stat work program and discussing possible areas of coordination and joint work.

8- World Statistics Day, 20 December 2015:

On 20 October 2015, GCC-Stat celebrated World Statistics Day with awareness raising activities in the media (television, radio, social media).

II. Cooperation with Academic and Research Institutions:

A Joint Committee with Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman was established. The main objective is to strengthen cooperation between the Center and the University in various areas of common interests, including specialized research and analytical studies, capacity development and training of statisticians, and providing academics and researchers with easy access to statistical data and information. The Committee held its first meeting in 2015.



5- Performance Indicators of Support Programmes

These programmes include the work carried out by the Information Technology Department and the Finance and Human Resources Department, within GCC-Stat.

I- Information Technologies:

1- The central computer room at the GCC-Stat headquarter was completed. The room is equipped with central servers, main control devices, basic and backup uninterruptible power supply (UPS), temperature control devices, fire alarms and extinguishers, and power regulators. All this equipment are at the highest security specifications and based on the latest state of the art technologies, to ensure high quality IT services delivery.

2- The tender for network equipment and infrastructure for all floors of the GCC-Stat headquarters was assigned, and work is in progress.

3- The launch of the updated version of the GCC-Stat website took place. The new website provides statistical data and information on the GCC countries both individually and as a bloc, with highlights of the key statistics and releases.

4- Developing web video-conferencing: Work is in progress to increase the use of web video-conferencing, in an aim to facilitate the organization of meetings and accommodation of delegates. A software solution was purchased, and a joint meeting of Working Group on Administrative Registers and the IT Administrators took place using this technology.

5- New GCC-Stat web portal for publication of official data: The portal was launched, and linked to the GCC-Stat website in the third quarter of 2015. The smart devices database was also linked to the portal's database. This means that the smart devices database are automatically updated.

6- The preparation, adoption and implementation of the information security policy: Work is underway to implement the information security policy approved in 2015. An internal campaign to raise awareness of the importance of information security was conducted. Basics and standards of information security have been deployed through the central servers, activation of the firewall with regard to access to the GCC-Stat network, and the installation of electronic gates using fingerprints and badges.



7- Use of the latest information and communication technologies to support data security and confidentiality: GCC-Stat is using the latest technologies, systems and programs, to ensure data safety and protection, to keep data from being modified or disclosed to non-concerned parties, and to ensure data are accessible in a timely manner.

concerned parties, and to ensure data are accessible in a timely manner.

8- The Green Policy for reducing the use of paper: The green policy aims to create a green work environment in the Center, through the achievement of maximum harmony and compatibility between the program of work carried out by the Center to achieve its objectives and the terms of the policy. One of the main priorities of this policy in its first phase is to reduce the use of paper.

I- Change Management Policy (draft):

The need for a change management policy arose from the implementation of the information security policy. The change management policy aims to achieve maximum benefits for GCC-Stat while minimizing the undesired effects of change both technically and statistically, and to avoid distractions at work with regard to taking decisions or establishing procedures that may directly affect all GCC-Stat department and functional levels.

II- Human Resources:

GCC-Stat focused on a number of human resources issues including:

- meeting staffing needs to implement its work program,
- improving the internal work environment,
- implementing training programmes to improve staff skills, and
- establishing a system to assess employee performance.



