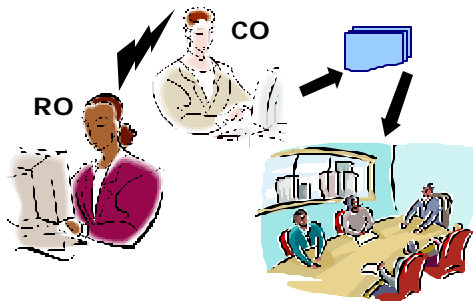


ENSURING THE FITNESS FOR USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE- BASED STATISTICS FOR INFORMED DECISION-MAKING: The DOLE Data Quality Assessment Framework



Evidence-based decision-making is becoming a popular way of formulating plans and programs. It is basically making policies/programs based on factual and objective evidence and not just on opinions or perceptions.

One of the important factors in evidence-based decision-making is the availability of information that would help support an informed decision. Likewise, available data have to be accurate, timely and give a true picture of the situation.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) requires numerous reports from its clients, either by law or in the implementation of its various programs. Most of these reports however, suffer from low compliance or coverage rate. This is compounded by the gap

between operating units which receive reports and users of the information. These affect the quality of information that are generated.

As the statistical arm of the DOLE, the challenge posed by top management to the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) is to ensure the quality of data being generated by all agencies within the Department. Such has spurred BLES with the assistance of the Statistical Research and Training Center (SRTC) to undertake with urgency the development of a data quality assessment framework (DQAF) for administrative-based statistics within DOLE. This initiative also forms part of the BLES mandate to "develop and prescribe uniform standards, nomenclatures and methodologies for the collection, processing, presentation and analysis of labor and employment data".

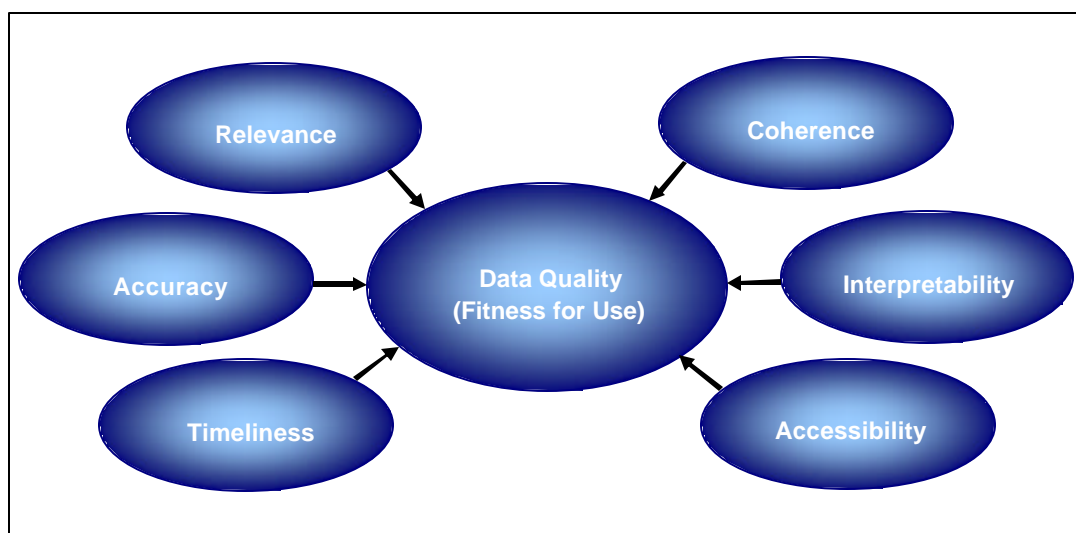
The primary objective of the project, entitled "Development of a Data Quality Assessment System (DQAS)," is to come up with a Policy Manual or Guidelines that would be used by all

agencies within the DOLE to ensure the quality of data generated from administrative-based reports/ records as well as those from surveys conducted.

As this is a pioneering effort for statistical agency in the Philippines Statistical System (PSS), the BLES had to search on DQAF of statistical agencies in other countries. The Statistics Canada (StatCan) was the first agency to develop a data quality framework and adopt a data quality policy. They define the quality of information in terms of

its "fitness for use". Other statistical agencies that have adopted DQAS are the National Statistical Offices of United Kingdom, United States, Australia, Netherlands and the statistical agency of the International Monetary Fund. These agencies have varying number of quality dimensions but the BLES decided to use the framework adopted by StatCan which consist of six (6) dimensions, to wit, relevance, accuracy, timeliness, coherence, interpretability and accessibility.

DIMENSIONS OF DATA QUALITY



Note: The DOLE-DQAS Framework was adapted from the Statistics Canada Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF).

Source: Statistics Canada.

Based on these dimensions, guide questions or indicators/measures were formulated to determine if the statistics vis-à-vis the data system that generate these statistics pass the quality test. (See Table on Data Quality

Dimension Measures/Indicators for DOLE Administrative-based Statistics)

Institutionalization and adoption of the Policy Manual/Guidelines on data quality for administrative-based

statistics will be in the second semester of 2007. Agency focal persons shall be assigned to monitor agency compliance to standards/guidelines thereby ensuring the quality of data

generated from administrative records/reports. The project will also advocate the replication of the guidelines in other statistical agencies in the country.

Reference:

Statistics Canada's Quality Assurance Framework, 2002, *Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 12-586-XIE* (www.statcan.ca)

FOR INQUIRIES:

Regarding this report contact **TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION at 527-3000 loc 317**

Regarding other statistics and technical services contact **BLES DATABANK at 527-3000 loc 317**

Or Write to BLES c/o **Databank, 3/F DOLE Bldg. Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila, 1002**

FAX 527-5506

E-mail: tsd@manila-online.net

Website: <http://www.manila-online.net/bles>

DATA QUALITY DIMENSION MEASURES/INDICATORS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE-BASED STATISTICS*
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE)

Dimension	Measures/Indicators
1. RELEVANCE <i>the degree to which the statistical information/data meets the real needs of the clients</i>	a. Presence of a feedback mechanism b. What are being done to the feedback of users as well as queries and requests for additional information c. Identification of other potential users of the information (internal and external)
2. ACCURACY <i>the degree to which the information correctly describes the phenomena it was designed to measure</i>	a. Coverage of the data system and the frequency the information is collected b. This includes identification of the client universe (entities covered by the data system i.e. Establishments employing 10 – 199 workers for the data system on Routine Inspection of the Labor Standards Enforcement Program) and determining the actual number of entities covered during a reporting period c. Determining units/entities where information were not obtained/collected d. Presence of standard forms and manuals of instructions used in collecting information to ensure information generated and reported in final report are correct e. Presence of a validation mechanism and a manual on how to do the validation
3. TIMELINESS <i>refers to the delay between reference points/periods to which information and the date to which it becomes available/released</i>	a. Inquiries on the submission of basic forms b. Consolidation and analysis of data a. Inquires on the Release Policy of the Department, i.e., whether data are released ahead of time to selected officials/agencies before official release (Embargo copy)
4. ACCESSIBILITY <i>ease to which information can be obtained (includes the cost, medium and form)</i>	a. Inquiries on to whom data are released/made available (internal or external users) b. The form (tables, graphs, with analysis, etc.) and medium (hard copy, in diskette, through internet/homepage, etc.) these are made available to clients
5. INTERPRETABILITY <i>availability of supplementary information that would ease up how data/information could be used (e.g., metadata, appropriate information, indicators of accuracy, limitations)</i>	a. Presence/availability of manuals that contain an explanation of the purpose of the system, concepts and definitions of terms, methodology, limitations and dimensions of quality that would guide those collecting the data b. Inquiries on additional information provided in final reports that may help the user in understanding/analyzing the information c. Inquiries on the adequacy of the report or were there additional information the users ask for
6. COHERENCE <i>degree to which it can be successfully brought together with other statistical information within a broad analytic framework (within a data set, across data sets over time and space and across country comparisons)</i>	a. Within data set - Analysis of the information generated as to comparability of submitted reports as to reference periods, units covered, definition of variables, uniformity in methodologies used and classification standards (i.e., PSIC) b. With other data sets– Comparing results with other similar data sets i.e., number of vacancies as against Labor Force Survey results

* Adapted from the Statcan Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF).