

**THE ROLE OF THE DATA PRODUCTS OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES
FOR DATA-DRIVEN POLICIES OF COUNTRIES (a case study from Iran)**

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ABSTRACT

The data products of national statistical offices play crucial roles in developing data-driven policies for social and economic growth of countries. The data products such as the results of population census and economic statistics, provide policymakers with a clear picture of the existing conditions, a standard toolkit for measuring progress made towards accomplishing the national development plans, and a roadmap for future development plans. Considering the fact that data are produced at high volumes, varieties and velocities on different subjects, the national statistical offices must adapt themselves to keep up with the speed of data production, analyzing data in real-time, and disseminating high-quality data to the users. The Statistical Centre of Iran which has been approved as the provider of official statistics on the I.R. Iran provides its users and policy makers in Iran with data products such as results of population and housing census, agriculture census, the results of various surveys on industries, Iran statistical yearbook and main indicators of the economy of Iran. These data products are appropriate measurements of the progress made for promoting the quality of social and economic lives of Iranian citizens. In this paper, the characteristics of data products and data policy of the Statistical Centre of Iran are explained, and their roles are assessed based on their contribution to assessment and preparation of the data-driven development policies in Iran. The results of this paper show that the data products of the Statistical Centre of Iran which measure various economic and social activities conducted in Iran are true images of existing situation and can be used as a roadmap for future development plans and upcoming national reports on achieving sustainable development goals.

Key words: Data Product, Data Policy, National Statistical Offices

INTRODUCTION

The international recommendations on statistical activities and conducts encourage the national statistical offices of countries (NSO) to produce quality statistics by using concrete methodologies such as planning to use new data sources such as administrative and provide their various users with timely and quality statistics. It is recommended that all national entities should work closely with their NSOs when developing national indicators for assessing the quality of data and statistics in order to find out what data are available and which data can be collected in the future.

The NSOs are responsible to provide timely, accurate and quality data on different aspects of society and economy for their various users like authorities, researchers, businesspeople, and laypersons aimed at enabling them to make informed decisions. The NSOs also have the duty to ensure the users of the reliability and availability of quality statistics. The data products of the NSOs resulted from their activities are diverse such as survey data, census data, administrative data and dissemination products. It is obvious that these products pave the way for users to make decision based on the existing facts.

According to the United Nations Statistics Division, the NSOs exist to provide information to the general public, government, and the business communities in the economic, demographic, and environmental domains. The data products of NSOs can include census data, survey data, and administrative data. Census data provides a quantitative view on the economic, environmental and social conditions of the country. Survey data can be used to estimate population characteristics, such as employment, income, and education levels. The administrative data collected by government agencies, such as tax records, is used to produce official statistics. Moreover, the NSOs have been increasingly embracing non-survey data sources, such as satellite imagery and social media data, to supplement their traditional data collection methods¹. These alternative data sources can provide timely and detailed information on various phenomena.

This paper is going to show the importance and role of the data products of the Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI), as the provider of official statistics on the I.R. Iran, in preparing the national data-driven policies of the Iranian government for social, economic and cultural development. For doing so, at the beginning of this paper, the works of various authors on the data products are explained. Then, the features of the data products of the SCI including data resulted from the population and housing census, the results of various surveys such as labour force and consumer price index (CPI), Iran statistical yearbook and main indicators of the economy of Iran and also the data policy of the SCI are explained and their importance for development plans and programmes are illustrated in the following section. Then the development policies of Iran and their dependence on reliable and up to date data are presented. This paper concludes that reliable and quality data presented by the NSOs are prerequisites for development plans and assessment of their realization.

¹ <https://hdr.mitpress.mit.edu/pub/x0l4x099>

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

Data products play an important role in the field of data science since they enable the organizations to effectively communicate insights and values of the organizations to stakeholders. Many scholars have studied the role and functions of data products.

DJ Patil (2012) defined data products as a product that facilitates an end goal through the use of data. O'Regan (2018) listed and grouped various types of data products as raw data, derived data, algorithms, decision support and automated decision-making.

The study by Pentland et al (2014) shows that data products can be categorized into three types: data-driven products, data-enriched products, and data-enabled products. Data-driven products use data as a primary source of value, while data-enriched products leverage data to enhance existing products or services. Data-enabled products use data to support the creation of new products or services.

Another study by Chen et al (2017) resulted that data products can lead to increased revenue and improved customer satisfaction. Manyika et al. (2017) conducted research on data literacy and highlighted the importance of data literacy in the development and deployment of successful data products.

In 2018, researchers from Singapore and Australia explored the concept of data products in the context of financial services. A study by Li et al (2018) proposed a framework for developing data products in the financial industry, highlighting the importance of data quality, analytics, and user engagement.

A study by Huang et al (2018) proposed a framework for developing data products, emphasizing the importance of data quality, visualization, and user engagement. Another study by Zhang et al. (2019) examined the role of data storytelling in data products, highlighting its impact on user understanding and decision-making.

Verhulst et al (2019) on their study on policy-data interaction found the challenges and opportunities of data-driven strategy development. The challenges include ethical and privacy concerns, while the opportunities include citizen-focused policy development and addressing public needs and preferences.

In 2019, researchers from Japan and South Korea examined the role of data products in enhancing customer experience in e-commerce. A study by Kim et al (2019) analyzed the impact of data products on customer loyalty and satisfaction in the e-commerce industry, suggesting that personalized data products can improve customer retention.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the development and deployment of data products, particularly in the healthcare sector. A study by Haghpanahi et al (2020) analyzed the use of data products in healthcare during the pandemic, highlighting their potential to improve patient outcomes and healthcare resource allocation.

In 2020, researchers from China and India investigated the applications of data products in healthcare and education. A study by Wang et al (2020) analyzed the use of data products in healthcare decision-making in China, highlighting their potential to improve patient outcomes and reduce healthcare costs.

Another study by Kumar et al (2020) examined the use of data products in education in India, suggesting that data-driven decision-making can improve student outcomes and educational effectiveness.

In 2021, researchers from Australia and New Zealand explored the challenges and limitations of data products. A study by Sivarajah et al (2021) examined the role of trust and perceived risk in data product adoption, highlighting the importance of building trust with users.

Akman et al (2021) conducted research on Turkey's open data policy and concluded that open accessible data in this country can be used to improve the public administration.

Lee et al (2021) analyzed the impact of data product complexity on user adoption and perceived value. They concluded that complex data products can be overwhelming for users.

In 2022, researchers from Taiwan and Hong Kong examined the applications of data products in sustainability and environmental management. A study by Lin et al (2022) analyzed the use of data products in sustainable supply chain management in Taiwan, highlighting their potential to improve environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

Another study by Wong et al (2022) examined the use of data products in environmental monitoring and management in Hong Kong. He suggested that data-driven decision-making can improve environmental protection and conservation.

More recent research has focused on the challenges and limitations of data products. A study by Wang et al (2022) examined the role of data product transparency in building trust with users, suggesting that transparent data products can improve user trust and loyalty.

Askarov et al (2022) in their study on significance of data-sharing policy used a Quasi-experimental difference analysis on economics journal and found that mandating data-sharing policies reduced publication bias.

Wang et al (2022) studied the relation between the data distortion and monetary policy in China's economy. Their research concluded that data manipulation and providing incorrect data in the China's economy can lead to incorrect monetary policy decisions and distorted macroeconomic outcomes.

Data policy refers to the rules and regularities of organizations for publishing and sharing their data assets. Data policies outline how companies and the NSOs collect data, what data can be collected, how data should be stored safe and for how long, and how the data is to be processed. The NSOs are in charge of providing correct, quality and comprehensive statistics in a timely manner for the policy makers in order to provide them with the needed materials for deciding on development policies aimed at promoting the quality of peoples' lives. Every organization which considers its data as a valuable asset is assumed to have developed a data policy which determines a roadmap to handle its data issues such as data definition, data access and authorization, data classification, data documentation, data security and data destruction.

Every NSO follows a data policy upon which the statistics resulted from various nationwide surveys such as population censuses are published for the users. Policies determined based on reliable and timely data pave the way for sustainable development which contributes to promotion of people's lives. Policy making would be fruitless if the provided data do not meet the prerequisites.

The data policy of the SCI is to diversify its data resources and use the modern technologies and methodologies in order to improve its data quality. For doing so, the SCI has established a work group including experts from different thematic offices on the data mining techniques and Big Data in the year 2015 based on the international recommendations. By considering the use of Big Data for production of official statistics, The SCI started to use this kind of data directly for production of official statistics or indirectly for verification (macro edit), completion, matching,

... At this time, the SCI is doing some activities based on Big Data such as a) Using of the open data on housing transactions for production of comparable statistics on price of housing and its transaction, b) Using of web scraping for production of statistics comparable with price indices statistics and c) Using of Instagram data for calculation of employment rate in the virtual business and macro edit of Labour Force Survey for calculation of unemployment rate. The cited statistics have not been published as official statistics and the SCI attempts to produce official statistics in these areas by changing its organizational structure based on the UN Handbook of Statistical Organization and becoming a process-based organization.

2. DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN IRAN

Iran has conducted ten development plans since the year 1963 with focus on socio-economic promotions. These development plans have played a significant role in shaping Iran's economic development and have contributed to the country's growth and progress over the years. The name, the characteristics and the main goals of these development plans are as follows:

The First National Development Plan was implemented between 1963 and 1968. Its primary objective was to facilitate industrialisation and infrastructure development in Iran. The plan's key projects included the construction of steel mills, cement factories, and hydroelectric power plants, which were designed to accelerate economic growth, boost industrial production, and enhance the living standards of the Iranian people.

The Second Development Plan (1968-1973) placed a greater emphasis on economic diversification and regional development. The primary objectives of this plan were to reduce the country's reliance on oil exports, to promote agricultural growth, and to develop regional industries. To achieve these goals, several significant projects were initiated, including the establishment of petrochemical complexes, the expansion of road networks, and the development of agricultural sectors.

The Third Development Plan, which focused on the development of heavy industry and economic growth, was conducted from 1973 to 1978. The plan was designed to achieve a number of objectives, including self-sufficiency in heavy industries, an increase in oil production, and an improvement in living standards. To this end, the authorities initiated a number of projects, including the construction of aluminium smelters, the expansion of steel production, and the development of nuclear energy.

The Fourth Development Plan, which was conducted from 1979 to 1984, had three main objectives: firstly, to revive the economy following the Iranian Revolution; secondly, to promote Islamic values; and thirdly, to reduce dependence on oil exports. The Fourth Development Plan was focused on economic reconstruction and the Islamicisation of the economy. In pursuit of these objectives, initiatives such as the nationalisation of industries, the establishment of an Islamic banking system, and the development of small-scale industries were implemented.

Following the conclusion of the war with Iraq, the initial five-year economic development plan was devised with a scheduled implementation period from 1989 to 1994. The overarching objective of this development plan was to facilitate the reconstruction and economic growth of Iran. In accordance with the primary objectives of reviving the economy following the Iran-Iraq War, enhancing economic growth and improving living standards, a series of initiatives were implemented to reconstruct war-damaged infrastructure, expand oil and gas production, and develop transportation networks.

The Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan (1995-2000) was primarily focused on privatisation and economic liberalisation of Iran. The principal objectives of this plan were to

enhance private sector involvement, encourage foreign investment, and enhance economic efficiency. In order to achieve these objectives, a number of national projects were initiated, including privatisation of state-owned enterprises, liberalisation of trade policies and the development of free trade zones.

The Third Five-Year Economic Development Plan (2000-2005) identified the issues of poverty reduction and human development in Iran. The key projects, such as the development of rural areas, the expansion of education and healthcare services, and the promotion of small-scale industries, were implemented with the objective of reducing poverty and unemployment, improving social welfare, and promoting human development.

The Fourth Five-Year Economic Development Plan (2005-2010) placed a strong emphasis on economic growth and the development of a knowledge-based economy. In order to achieve rapid economic growth, promote innovation and technology, and develop knowledge-based industries, the government implemented a series of key projects, including the development of information technology, the expansion of higher education, and the promotion of entrepreneurship.

The Fifth Five-Year Economic Development Plan (2010-2015) placed a strong emphasis on economic resilience and resistance economy. In order to achieve its stated objectives, namely enhancing economic resilience, reducing reliance on oil exports and fostering domestic production, the government initiated a series of development projects in strategic industries, expanded the use of renewable energy sources and promoted domestic tourism.

The Sixth Five-Year Economic Development Plan (2016-2021) placed a strong emphasis on economic growth, stability, and prosperity. The overarching objectives of this plan were to achieve sustainable economic growth, enhance economic stability, and foster prosperity. In order to achieve these objectives, a number of key projects were initiated, including the development of oil and gas industries, the expansion of transportation networks, and the promotion of foreign investment.

The most recent development plan in Iran is the Seventh Five-Year Economic Development Plan (2021-2026). This plan is focused on economic growth, innovation, and entrepreneurship. In order to achieve its overarching objectives, which include rapid economic growth, the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship, and an improvement in the living standards of the population, the government has identified three key projects: the development of knowledge-based industries, the expansion of the digital economy, and the promotion of start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

3. THE KEY DATA PRODUCTS NEEDED FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

A review of the development plans carried out in Iran shows that these plans aimed at promoting the social and economic lives of people and improve the quality of their lives. It is crystal and clear that policy-makers needed timely and quality data in order to design, conduct, and assess their developed policies and plans. For assessing the macroeconomic and Fiscal aspects of the plans it is needed to have data on gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, gross national income (GNI), balance of payments data, and fiscal data such as government revenues, expenditures, and deficits. In order to assess the progress made for realizing the goals on poverty and social policy, the statistics on poverty rates and indicators, inequality measures, and data on access to social services like healthcare, education, and social protection come to the fore. For measuring the progress made for realizing goals on sectoral and industrial policies, the authorities should have data and statistics on production, employment, and trade data for key economic sectors, data on infrastructure, energy, and natural resource use. The data and statistics on trade and financial

integration and external economic conditions and trends are needed to assess the progress made toward achieving the international economic relation of the country. National statistical systems play a crucial role in producing these essential data². Adequate funding, capacity, and coordination are needed to strengthen national statistical systems and ensure data is used effectively in the policymaking process³. Based on the framework of the National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS), more than 30 statistical surveys and data collection activities are carried out by the SCI for the purpose of production of statistics on different sectors of Iranian economy, industries, mining, agriculture, trade, services, energy, employment, housing and households. Furthermore, 105 statistical surveys have been conducted in order to collect the detailed information required for the input-output tables and ICT satellite accounts. Besides, for the purpose of decreasing the costs of surveys' implementation and accelerating the process of extraction of the survey results, paper questionnaires have been replaced with tablet in some of the SCI surveys. The Results of these surveys are available in the form of printed publications and also through the National Statistical Portal. Other Activities of the SCI include carrying out research projects in cooperation with the Statistical Research and Training Centre (SRTC), holding tens of national and international training workshops, preparation and compilation of several titles of classifications and statistical standards, and preparation of standard definitions and concepts in Persian for hundreds of statistical items. In this direction and based on the Paragraph A of the Article 54 of the Law on the Five-year National Social Economic and Cultural Development Plan, the SCI is the sole official authority eligible for preparation, announcement and dissemination of the official statistics in the country in order to integrate, organize and remove the parallel activities in the national statistical system of Iran. In this line, the SCI continuously follows the process of organizing the administrative organizations' registers and establishing and updating the National Statistical Information Database, as well as databases on time series, censuses, national accounts, etc. Promotion of statistical literacy throughout the society especially among the four groups of policy makers, users, respondents and producers of statistics, is one of the major goals of the SCI for which it is various programs in the form of National Statistical Development Strategy and the plans aimed at promotion of statistical literacy.

The SCI uses the international recommended classification for conducting its surveys and census. These classifications are ISIC Rev.4⁴, CPC Ver 2.1⁵, ISCO 2008⁶, COFOG⁷, COICOP⁸, COPNI⁹,

² https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/142039/1/cbn-jas_v1-i1-pp099-106.pdf

³ <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/dcr-2017-6-en/index.html?itemId=%2Fcontent%2Fcomponent%2Fdcrcr-2017-6-en>

⁴ The International Standard Industrial Classification

⁵ Central Product Classification

⁶ The International Standard Classification of Occupations

⁷ Classification Of the Functions of Government

⁸ The Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose

⁹ Classification Of the Purposes of Non-Profit Institutions

COPP¹⁰, ICHA 2000¹¹, ICATUS 2016¹², ICLC¹³, ISCED¹⁴, SICTA¹⁵, ICF 2001¹⁶, CEPA 2000¹⁷, M9 and M74.

Some of the most important statistical surveys of the SCI which are conducted in the form of census, sampling and register based surveys in various time intervals such as annual, biannual, quarterly and monthly basis as well as ad-hoc surveys, are National Population and Housing Census, National Census of Agricultural, Social and Economic Censuses of Nomadic Tribes.

Other statistical surveys including surveys on industrial establishments with 10 and more workers, operating mines, modern chicken farms (broiler, layer and pullet, breeder and hatcheries), livestock, horticultures, national tourists, research and development activities, trade establishments, labour force, time use, income and expenditure of urban and rural households, price and house rent in Tehran city, price and house rent in urban areas, producer price (industry sector, residential buildings in Tehran city, wholesale services, retail services, and price index surveys).

The main data products of the SCI resulted from its activities cover widespread social and economic subjects. The census data are presented at detailed level. The results of various surveys such as industrial cattle farms, national vessels, Poultry Meat supplied by the National Poultry Slaughterhouses and time use survey are published online. The main economic indicators which are updated by the SCI are CPI, PPI, decile inflation rate, Average Price of Consumer Goods and Services for National Households (Urban Area), national import and export indices, Quantity Indices of the Manufacturing, mining and Agriculture, unemployment rate, economic participation rate, population growth rate, Gini coefficient, population of the country, and economic growth rate. The SCI also collects and disseminate statistics on various sections such as labour force, household expenditure and income, tourism, national accounts, culture, population, climate, environment, energy, transport, trade, price index, education, and time use. The Iran Statistical Yearbook contains the latest statistical information available on economic, social, cultural and political areas of the country to meet the statistical data needs of the local decision makers, planners and researchers, as well as all other interested users. The Yearbook has been released regularly since the year 1345. The major sources of the Yearbook include: (a) the results of censuses and sample surveys conducted by the SCI, (b) the results of surveys conducted by other government organizations, and (c) administrative registers.

4. DATA PRODUCTS OF SCI FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND POLICIES

A short review of the development policies and the data products of the SCI shows that the economic development plans which are aimed at stimulating economic growth often require comprehensive economic statistics and demographic data series. The Public health policies use data on population health statistics. The educational policies can be shaped using census records and statistics on literacy rates and school enrollment. The urban planning needs data on population density, housing, and infrastructure. The climate and environmental policies utilize data on natural

¹⁰ Code Of Professional Practice

¹¹ The International Classification for Health Accounts

¹² International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics

¹³ International Consensus Classification

¹⁴ International Standard Classification of Education

¹⁵ The Standard International Classification of Tourism Activities

¹⁶ International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health

¹⁷ The Classification of Environmental Protection Activities

resources, pollution levels, and energy consumption. A comparison between these statistical needs for development plans and policies in Iran and the data products of the SCI indicates that the data products of the SCI can be considered as the starting point and baselines for designing and assessment of these plans and policies.

One of the data products of the SCI is the Labour Force Survey, the results of which are published on a quarterly and annual basis. The objective of this survey is to obtain data pertaining to the composition and the current condition of the labour force, as well as to identify any changes that may have occurred. The aforementioned aim is accomplished through estimation on labour force at different levels (seasonal, annual, provincial and national). The two notions of employment and unemployment are necessary to assess the existing status of national economies. In other words, increase in employment rate is considered as an indicator for realization of development plan. The unemployment rate serves as an indicator for the appraisal of national economic conditions.

The compilation of statistics on minerals production represents the fundamental basis for a valuable supply chain that serves a variety of economic sectors, most notably the manufacturing and housing industries. Mines play a significant role in the creation of sustainable employment opportunities and the generation of value-added outputs within the economic landscape. The direct and indirect export of mineral products and industries constitute a significant proportion of the national economy. The availability of accurate and timely statistics on mining activities is essential for the optimal utilisation of the country's diverse and abundant mineral resources. An annual survey of operating mines in the country is conducted for the purpose of producing statistics and information regarding the functions of operating mines in the country, the calculation of its share in the national GDP, the production and value of mineral products, the amount and value of direct exports of mineral products, value added, the composition of the workforce, the extraction of minerals, the value of investments, and other related issues.

The SCI administers the survey on public parking as one of the surveys on transportation establishments in order to obtain the data necessary for the calculation of the transportation sector of the national and regional accounts. Furthermore, the SCI conducts surveys on travel institutes and companies, public weighbridges, the Survey on National Vessels, and cargo institutes and companies. These surveys are conducted as part of the larger effort to obtain data for the transportation sector of the national and regional accounts.

The SCI conducts the time use survey in order to obtain information on what activities people do to spend their time. This survey provide statistics on the social and behavioral activities of the households.

The one of the important sub-divisions of agricultural sector is the activities related to crop's growing. These activities account for 50 percent of value added of this sector. The SCI has conducted the survey on crops growing activity aimed at collecting data to compile national accounts for the agriculture sector.

One of the censuses which the SCI carries out is the National Agriculture Census. This Census uses the IT devices (tablet) for gathering and registering the data on agricultural holdings. The results of this Census are valuable information on sub-systems of agriculture such as agricultural activities, horticulture, husbandry (light and heavy cattle), green house cultivation, planting, aquaculture (warm water fish and cold-water fish), apiculture.

The "Statistical Yearbook of Iran" is one the most important statistical publication of the SCI which reflects the statistics on different social and economic aspect of lives in Iran. The SCI also has

established the National Statistical Information Database of Iran in 2002, accessible through the National Statistical Portal at www.amar.org.ir. This database is updated regularly and users have access to time series of statistics on different subjects such as employment, price index, and etc.

5. DATA POLICY AND STATISTICAL DISSEMINATION POLICY OF THE SCI

A further aspect of the SCI data policy is the information security policy. The SCI serves as the central entity within the Iranian statistical system, with the objective of coordinating the collection and dissemination of official statistics, and establishing a register-based statistical system that adheres to the fundamental principles of official statistics. The SCI provides users with up-to-date and reliable statistics, collected using appropriate and high-quality methodologies. These statistics are published at the earliest opportunity using comprehensive information dissemination methods and taking account of the confidentiality of statistics. In line with its obligation to provide services for users, the SCI is required to fully protect the results of censuses, surveys and administrative registers, which are considered to be one of the most valuable assets of the National Statistical System.

The organisational strategy and risk management framework of the SCI provides an appropriate context for the identification, monitoring, assessment and management of risks related to the data security of the SCI. This is achieved through the establishment and maintenance of an Information Security Management System (ISMS). This is achieved by taking into account the standards pertaining to the confidentiality, accuracy and accessibility of the information assets of the SCI.

The overarching objective of the SCI's information security policy is to guarantee the confidentiality, accuracy and integrity of statistical data. It is the responsibility of the SCI to safeguard the personal data of individuals (natural and legal persons) and their privacy in a manner that preserves the confidentiality of the statistical unit and restricts access to macro-level information to authorised personnel and institutions.

The Statistical Dissemination Policy of the SCI has been developed on the basis of seven principles namely as the guarantee of equal access to information, professional independence, transparency, confidentiality of statistical information, punctuality and timeliness, commitment to an information pricing policy, the adherence to the information system. These constituents on the SCI's statistical dissemination policy is the key path to public trust in the published official statistics in Iran.

6. CONCLUSION

The objective of this study was to ascertain the role and impact of data products from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) on the formulation of data-driven policies in countries. The data required for this research was the data products of the SCI, which serves as the as the provider of official statistics on the I.R. Iran. The SCI's primary activities include the promotion of statistical literacy and awareness, as well as the production of reliable, diverse, integrated, comprehensive, and comparable statistical data, ensuring quality and impartiality in this regard. These activities are realised through the various data products that this organisation makes available to the public and policy makers. This study examined the various data products of the SCI, which are the indicators of the different aspect of lives in Iran as well as the progress made toward achieving the development plans in Iran. Several data products of the SCI, including the results of multiple surveys on population, labour force, industrial sections, population census, agriculture census and Iran Statistical Yearbook, were assessed and their characteristics were explained. Furthermore, the

development plans implemented in Iran were delineated, along with their ultimate objectives and pivotal projects designed to achieve those objectives. Ultimately, it was demonstrated that the data products of the SCI are capable of furnishing the requisite data for policymakers to assess the progress made and provide them with a roadmap for preparing future development plans.

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