# Pledge of Secrecy

I hereby pledge not to disclose to anyone any data prescribed as confidential by law.

I pledge not to disclose to a third party information that has become available to me during my employment relationship and which I am obliged to keep secret by virtue of the Statistics Act or the Act on the Openness of Government Activities, or which must not be disclosed by virtue of some other act or degree or a separate order issued by a public authority.

I am aware that the obligation of secrecy also includes a prohibition on wrongful use of a confidential document or information for personal or another person’s gain or to injure another person.

I am aware that the obligation to secrecy will remain in force even after the expiry of my employment relationship and that breaching it is punishable by law.

Clarification of signature

Enclosure The Obligation of Secrecy

# The Obligation of Secrecy

#### Contents of the obligation of secrecy

Data protection plays a key role in the production of statistics. The confidence of the suppliers and users of data is the basic precondition of Statistics Finland’s activity. Both the Statistics Act (Section 10) and the Personal Data Act (Section 32) require that data are protected during all stages of statistics production.

All basic data collected for statistical purposes are confidential. The confidentiality of data is defined according to Section 24, Subsection 1, Paragraph 16 of the Act on the Openness of Government Activities. Exceptions to the confidentiality of statistical data are set out in Sections 12 and 18 of the Statistics Act.

The confidentiality obligation applies also to such unreleased statistics data, whose release before the official publication date may influence capital or financial markets. The confidentiality of these statistics is set out in Section 24, Subsection 1, Paragraph 13 of the Act on the Openness of Government Activities. Information on them may not be disclosed in advance under any circumstances. A list of these statistics is available on Statistics Finland's intranet MeSta.

The obligation of secrecy may also be based on other acts or other grounds for secrecy mentioned in the Act on the Openness of Government Activities. For instance as regards chargeable service activities and procurements, business and professional secrecy may be applicable. Supervisors and persons handling human resource matters also process data on personnel which have been prescribed confidential.

The obligation of secrecy means that during a person’s employment relationship or after its expiry he/she may not wrongfully disclose such documents or data which have been prescribed confidential. Data on individual enterprises or similar and on individual persons may not be disclosed. Documents or information intended as confidential may not be used for personal or another person’s gain or to injure another person. This prohibits i.a. using such information on the stock market.

#### Sanctions for breaching the obligation of secrecy

Every employee of Statistics Finland is obliged to secrecy by virtue of law, and a breach of this obligation is punishable by law. The sanctions for breaching the obligation of secrecy are set out in Chapter 40, Section 5 of the Penal Code. The punishment for a public official or a general government employee may be a fine or imprisonment for at most two years. A public official may also be dismissed from office, if the offence demonstrates that he/she is manifestly unfit for his/her duties.

#### Key legislation

Statistics Act (280/2004)
Act on the Openness of Government Activities (No 621/1999)
Personal Data Act (523/1999)