

# Pakistan: Data governance profile

## 1. Vision and policy intent

Pakistan 2025 [“One Nation One Vision”](#) calls for institutional reform and modernisation of the public sector and the development of a competitive knowledge economy. Actions include:

- Strengthen data collection
  - Access to real-time data
  - Public access to public sector data.
  - Enforcement of the Right to Information Act,
  - Infrastructure for sharing of data
  - Cyber-security measures to protect security.
- [“Digital Pakistan”](#) aims to enhance access and connectivity, improve the country’s digital infrastructure, promote e-government services, equip the nation with digital skills, and promote innovation and entrepreneurship. It includes:
- Enactment of data protection laws;
  - Development of a framework for cloud-based services and its regulation which includes data standards;
  - integration of government databases;
  - Removal of barriers for exchange of data; and
  - Measures for the security of sensitive business and individual data in a big-data environment.

## 2. Data Management: policies, rules & institutions

The [Pakistan Bureau of Statistics](#) Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) is the prime official agency of Pakistan, responsible for collection, compilation and dissemination of reliable and timely statistical information to the policy makers, planners and researchers.

[Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication](#): Responsible for formulating policies, regulations, and strategies concerning information technology, including data governance.

[Pakistan Telecommunication Authority](#): Regulates and oversees the telecommunications and internet services, ensuring compliance with data protection and privacy laws.

[Federal Investigation Agency](#): Investigates cybercrimes and breaches of data security, enforcing relevant laws.

[National Database and Registration Authority](#): Manages national databases such as citizen information, biometrics, ensuring their security and privacy.

## 3. Data custodians and data stewardship

Under the [General Statistics Reorganisation Act \(2011\)](#) the Chief Statistician has authority to undertake a range of Data Stewardship activities in relation to Official Statistics. These include:

- Design of all censuses, surveys or statistical studies proposed to be undertaken by the Federal Government
- Regulation of statistical activities of national interest to provide overall coordination, professional monitoring, evaluation and review of statistics work in Pakistan;
- Development of national statistical standards and promote standardization of concepts and definitions.

The [National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2021-2030](#) includes actions to promote standardization of data across the National Statistical System and the establishment of a Central Data Bank for Pakistan.

## 4. Data sharing, accessibility and integration

The [Data Sharing Standard Operating Procedure](#) established by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication applies to the all who are in the role of the owner, user or custodian of any kind of government information assets or in any support role for information handling.

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics [Data Dissemination Policy](#) has been revised to reflect growing demand for researcher/user access to micro data. Micro data may be supplied after removing the micro-level identification and Data User/Researchers must provide an undertaking that the data collected from PBS will not be supplied to any other person/organization.

The [Open Data Pakistan portal](#) is developed by the National Center for Big Data and Cloud Computing (NCBC), Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and Higher Education Commission (HEC). It is a collaborative effort to help provide open data to all kinds of users, such as researchers, policymakers, communities, and businesses alike.

## 5. Data sharing, risks & mitigation

The Government of Pakistan is in the final stage of approval of [Data Protection Bill](#) aimed at providing for the processing, obtaining, holding, usage and disclosure of personal data while respecting the rights, freedoms and dignity of natural persons with special regard to their right to privacy, secrecy and personal identity.

[Electronic Transaction Ordinance \(ETO\) 2002](#): Provides the legal infrastructure for electronic transactions, outlining rules and procedures for electronic governance.

[Telecommunication \(Re-organization\) Act 1996](#): Regulates the telecommunications sector, outlining rules for data protection and privacy.

[Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act \(PECA\) 2016](#): Covers a wide range of cybercrimes, including unauthorized access to data, cyberstalking, and online harassment.

[Freedom of Information Act](#): Aims to promote transparency and access to information held by public bodies.