



## **Student worksheet 1: General guidelines for analysing statistical data**

Statistical analysis includes collecting, organizing and interpreting data. Knowledge of statistical methods is useful for converting raw data into meaningful information that can help decision makers identify trends or problems and help make plans to alter them if necessary. Statistical analysis helps governments, businesses and even individuals keep track of how well they are doing in various endeavours.

When looking at data, keep in mind the following basic questions:

1. What do the data measure?
2. How is the information being measured?
3. What time periods are involved?
4. How are the data organized to meet certain objectives?
5. What trends, changes or unexpected findings can you identify from examination of the data? Speculate about some reasons for such changes or trends.
6. What correlations (interdependent relationships) are there between different variables? For example, is there a relationship between changes in wages and changes in productivity over certain periods? If so, what is the relationship?
7. What conclusions, inferences or assumptions can you determine from your analyses?