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करियर शीट • CAREER SHEET

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भारतीय सांख्यिकी सेवा (आई.एस.एस.)

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The Indian Statistical Service is the officer service of the machinery that produces the country's numbers — from the census to the unemployment rate, inflation and the gross domestic product. The figure on which the government...

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करियर मार्गदर्शन कार्यशाला, डाइट बारमेर (14-17 जुलाई 2026) में विकसित व लोकार्पित
Developed & unveiled at the Career Guidance Workshop, DIET Barmer (14-17 July 2026)

यह एक स्वतंत्र परियोजना है, जो सरकार की आधिकारिक करियर-मार्गदर्शन सामग्री पर आधारित है। • An independent project based on the Government's official career-guidance content.

1 About this career

The Indian Statistical Service is the officer service of the machinery that produces the country's numbers — from the census to the unemployment rate, inflation and the gross domestic product. The figure on which the government builds policy and the newspapers print a headline comes out of the work of this service's officers. One thing sets it apart from most government routes on this portal, and it should be understood at the outset: it is not filled through the Civil Services Examination. It has its own — the UPSC's Indian Economic Service / Indian Statistical Service Examination — and for it the degree must carry Statistics, Mathematical Statistics or Applied Statistics as a subject, or be a Master's in one of those. So this is a route whose planning begins when Maths is chosen in Class 11.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	A Bachelor's degree with Statistics, Mathematical Statistics or Applied Statistics as one of the subjects; or a Master's degree in one of those. This is one of the few government routes on this portal where the subject genuinely is a condition — a degree alone is not enough
Selection exam	The UPSC's Indian Economic Service / Indian Statistical Service Examination — separate from the Civil Services Examination, with its own notice and its own syllabus
Age limit	21 to 30 years (as on August 01, 2025, per the 2025 notice); relaxation of up to five years for SC and ST candidates
Posts	35 posts in the Indian Statistical Service in the 2025 examination (of which 4 reserved for candidates with benchmark disabilities) and 12 in the Indian Economic Service
Starting salary	₹56,100 a month (Level 10 of the 7th CPC matrix, Junior Time Scale), excluding allowances

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- A real interest in numbers and data — not merely in passing a mathematics examination
- Curiosity about how official statistics are made and what they actually mean
- The work of surveys, sampling and analysis

ABILITIES

- Numerical ability — the spine of this service, not a supporting skill
- Logical ability and a deep grasp of statistical theory
- Data analysis and interpretation — drawing a conclusion from a figure and also stating its limits

KEY SKILLS

- Designing and running sample surveys
- Using statistical software and handling large data sets
- Preparing the national accounts, price indices and employment statistics
- Giving ministries data-based advice for policy

4 How to get there

- 1 Take Maths in Class 11 and 12. It is the most practical advice on this page, because degree courses carrying Statistics usually do not admit without it — and that is the real condition on this route.
- 2 In the degree, make sure one of the subjects is Statistics, Mathematical Statistics or Applied Statistics. It is common in a B.Sc., and many universities allow Statistics with a B.A. or B.Com. too — check your university's prospectus and settle it in advance.
- 3 If the degree did not carry Statistics, the route is still open: a Master's in one of those subjects makes you eligible.
- 4 This examination is separate from the Civil Services Examination and its notice comes out separately — usually in February. Look for 'Indian Economic Service / Indian Statistical Service Examination' on the UPSC website, not under Civil Services.
- 5 The posts are few but the competition is limited too, because only those who have studied Statistics are eligible. For a prepared candidate that is an advantage.

MAIN EXAMS

- Selection is through the UPSC's Indian Economic Service / Indian Statistical Service Examination. This is not the Civil Services Examination — a separate notice, a separate syllabus and separate dates. One examination fills two services: the Indian Economic Service, which needs a postgraduate degree in Economics, and the Indian Statistical Service, which needs the study of Statistics.
- The qualification is the most important thing on this page, and in the notice's own words it is this: a candidate must have obtained a Bachelor's degree with Statistics, Mathematical Statistics or Applied Statistics as one of the subjects, or a Master's degree in one of those. Note that at bachelor's level Statistics 'as one of the subjects' is enough — the whole degree need not be in Statistics.

- The age band is 21 to 30 (as on August 01, 2025 in the 2025 notice, that is, born not earlier than August 2, 1995 and not later than August 1, 2004). SC and ST candidates get up to five years' relaxation. This is two years tighter than the Civil Services Examination's 32, so plan accordingly.
- The examination has written papers followed by an interview; for the Indian Statistical Service the papers are on Statistics itself, not on general studies — which is what makes it fundamentally different from the Civil Services Examination. For a student who is strong in Statistics but daunted by the vast general studies syllabus, this is a far better-shaped examination. The full detail of the papers and the syllabus is in the notice — read it through the link below.
- The 2025 examination carried 35 posts in the Indian Statistical Service, of which 4 are reserved for candidates with benchmark disabilities (including 3 backlog), and 12 in the Indian Economic Service. The notice says itself that these numbers are tentative and liable to alteration. It is a small recruitment — but the pool of eligible candidates is small too, which is what makes it realistic for a student who has studied Statistics.
- This page is written from Examination Notice No. 07/2025-IES/ISS dated February 12, 2025, for which the last date for applications was March 4, 2025. When a fresh notice opens, take the vacancies, the dates and the reckoning date from that one.

5 Where to study

ONLINE

- UPSC — the Indian Economic Service / Indian Statistical Service Examination page — All India (<https://www.upsc.gov.in/examinations/Indian%20Economic%20Service%20-%20Indian%20Statistical%20Service%20Examination,%202025>)
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) — where this service works — All India (<https://www.mospi.gov.in/>)
- National Sample Survey — the surveys this service designs and runs — All India (<https://www.mospi.gov.in/national-sample-survey-nss>)

FEES

This route costs no more than any other degree — a B.Sc. or B.A. carrying Statistics is charged the same as any other in a government college. Rajasthan's universities offer both a degree with Statistics and an M.Sc. in Statistics. The examination fee is small and is not charged to SC, ST, women and PwBD candidates. The real 'cost' here is the choice of subject rather than money — and that choice begins with taking Maths in Class 11.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- National Scholarship Portal — central and state scholarships for graduation and postgraduation (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
- Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Yojana (free coaching, apply via SSO) (<https://sso.rajasthan.gov.in/signin>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the National Statistical Office, and the statistical divisions of the various ministries. The headquarters is in New Delhi and it is an all-India service, so a posting may be anywhere in the country.

WORK CULTURE

The work is designing surveys, collecting and analysing data, and writing reports. Hours are regular, but the pressure rises when a large survey is in the field or a major statistic is due for release — because the whole country looks at those numbers and argues about them. The expectation of accuracy here is unusually high.

WHO HIRES

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and the National Statistical Office
- The statistical divisions of the Government of India's ministries and departments

DEMAND (2026)

The posts are few — 35 in 2025 — but that number can mislead, because the eligibility condition narrows the competition by itself: only those who have studied Statistics can sit. The Civil Services Examination draws lakhs; this draws a few thousand. For a student who has taken a degree with Statistics, this is among the best-shaped all-India service examinations on this portal. Keep applying alongside to Rajasthan's Statistical Officer posts and to private-sector data analysis work — the same study carries into all three.

7 Career growth

- 1 Junior Time Scale (Assistant Director) — the entry level, pay Level 10, basic ₹56,100
- 2 Senior Time Scale (Deputy Director)
- 3 Junior Administrative Grade (Joint Director) and Director



Deputy Director General and Director General — the senior posts of the National Statistical Office

EARNINGS

Starting	₹56,100 प्रति माह (वेतन स्तर 10, कनिष्ठ समय-मान, मूल वेतन), भत्तों को छोड़कर
Mid level	₹1,18,500 – ₹1,44,200 प्रति माह (मूल वेतन, वरिष्ठ समय-मान एवं कनिष्ठ प्रशासनिक ग्रेड में)
Senior level	₹2,00,000 से अधिक (मूल वेतन, वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक ग्रेड एवं उससे ऊपर)

Entry is at the Junior Time Scale, which is Level 10 of the 7th Central Pay Commission matrix — a basic of ₹56,100, the same entry level as the IAS and the other Group 'A' services. Every Group 'A' service enters on the same pay; the difference is in the work, not the salary. Dearness, house rent and transport allowances come on top. These figures will change when the 8th Central Pay Commission's recommendations take effect.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- The competition is far smaller than in the Civil Services Examination, because only those who studied Statistics are eligible — a large advantage for a prepared candidate
- The examination is on your own subject, not on the vast general studies syllabus
- The entry pay is the same as the IAS — a basic of ₹56,100 at Level 10
- The effect of the work is visible — the figures on which national policy is built come from this service
- Statistics 'as one of the subjects' in the degree is enough; the whole degree need not be in Statistics

The challenges

- The subject condition is real — without having studied Statistics you are simply not eligible, whatever else is true. That decision is effectively made when Maths is chosen in Class 11.
- The posts are very few — only 35 in 2025
- The age limit is 30, two years tighter than the Civil Services Examination's 32
- It is an all-India service — a posting may be anywhere, and most of the work is in Delhi and the larger cities
- The work is mostly data, surveys and reports; it does not carry the public-facing role of district administration

9 If this route does not work out

One exam or one attempt does not close the door. The same subjects also open these routes — entry is usually easier, and you can return to this field later.

- Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS)
- Metro Train Operator / Station Controller
- SSC JHT — Combined Hindi Translators Examination

10 Sources & further reading

1. UPSC — Indian Economic Service / Indian Statistical Service Examination — <https://www.upsc.gov.in/examinations/Indian%20Economic%20Service%20-%20Indian%20Statistical%20Service%20Examination,%202025>
2. Examination Notice No. 07/2025-IES/ISS — the source of this page — <https://www.upsc.gov.in/sites/default/files/Notif-IES-ISS-Exam-2025-English-120225.pdf>
3. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation — <https://www.mospi.gov.in/>
4. UPSC — main website — <https://www.upsc.gov.in/>