



**THE STATE STATISTICAL
COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN**

Rules regulating the actions of the Committee in the case of
misinterpretation of statistical information by users

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THE STATE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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Introduction

One of the main matters to be considered by statistical bodies in their activity is to provide correct understanding and interpretation of official statistical information by users. Speech, thoughts, freedom of the press inherent to the democratic societies necessitate the creation of different approaches, views to statistical information characterizing economic, social, public and other fields of the country. In this regard, one of the main duties of statistical bodies is to provide correct interpretation of statistical information by users. It also enables enhancement of prestige of statistical bodies in the society, trust and confidence in statistical information. In case of misinterpretation of statistical information by data users and mass media the State Statistical Committee is ruled by Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, Principle 4 “Prevention of misuse”, Statistical Commission of UN Economic and Social Council.

In accordance with these principles the statistical bodies has a right to comment misinterpretation or misuse of statistical information.

Prevention of misuse is also reflected in the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on “Official Statistics”. According to item 6 of article 6 of this law the explanations are given to users for the purpose to prevent misinterpretation of statistical results and there are made speeches on mass media.

General concepts

official statistical data – are data obtained as a result of processing and aggregation of administrative and primary data on social, economic, demographic, environment and quantities of other public processes by corresponding executive authorities producing official statistics and other state authorities according to the Law on “Official Statistics” and other legislative acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

dissemination of statistical data shall mean giving to users, regardless of the form and means used to have access to Official Statistics not subject to statistical confidentiality;

distortion of official statistical data – shall mean use, publication of official statistical data, its appearance in mass media, dissemination in electronic mass media and so distorting them intentionally or by mistake.

Steps to be taken by the Committee in the case of misinterpretation of statistical information by users

These steps are as follows:

- revelation of the facts of misinterpretation and misuse of official statistical information;

- after definition of the fact the corresponding department informs the Department of Data Dissemination of the Committee, supervisor of the department (deputy chairman) or the chairman of the SSC of Azerbaijan in oral and written form;

- Administration of the Committee entrusts with a task the Department of Data Dissemination and corresponding departments;

- corresponding mass media and user is contacted and oral statements are made for them, and if applicable the corresponding appearances are made in mass media. In case of diverse interpretation of statistical information at the level of specialists and experts on corresponding areas, and presentation of different figures and basing all of them by alternative calculation methodology, the

explanations by the Committee should be more detailed and comprehensive and if necessary the meeting should be organized with employees of corresponding departments, joint discussions should be implemented;

- Employees of the department of data dissemination contact with user and require correct indication of a source during explanation of statistical data;

- During 3 days the department of data dissemination makes retraction regarding to incorrect statistical data interpreted by users, forwards correct statistical data to users by email and requires publication of retraction on behalf of the State Statistical Committee.

These steps are described in a chart attached to the Rules.

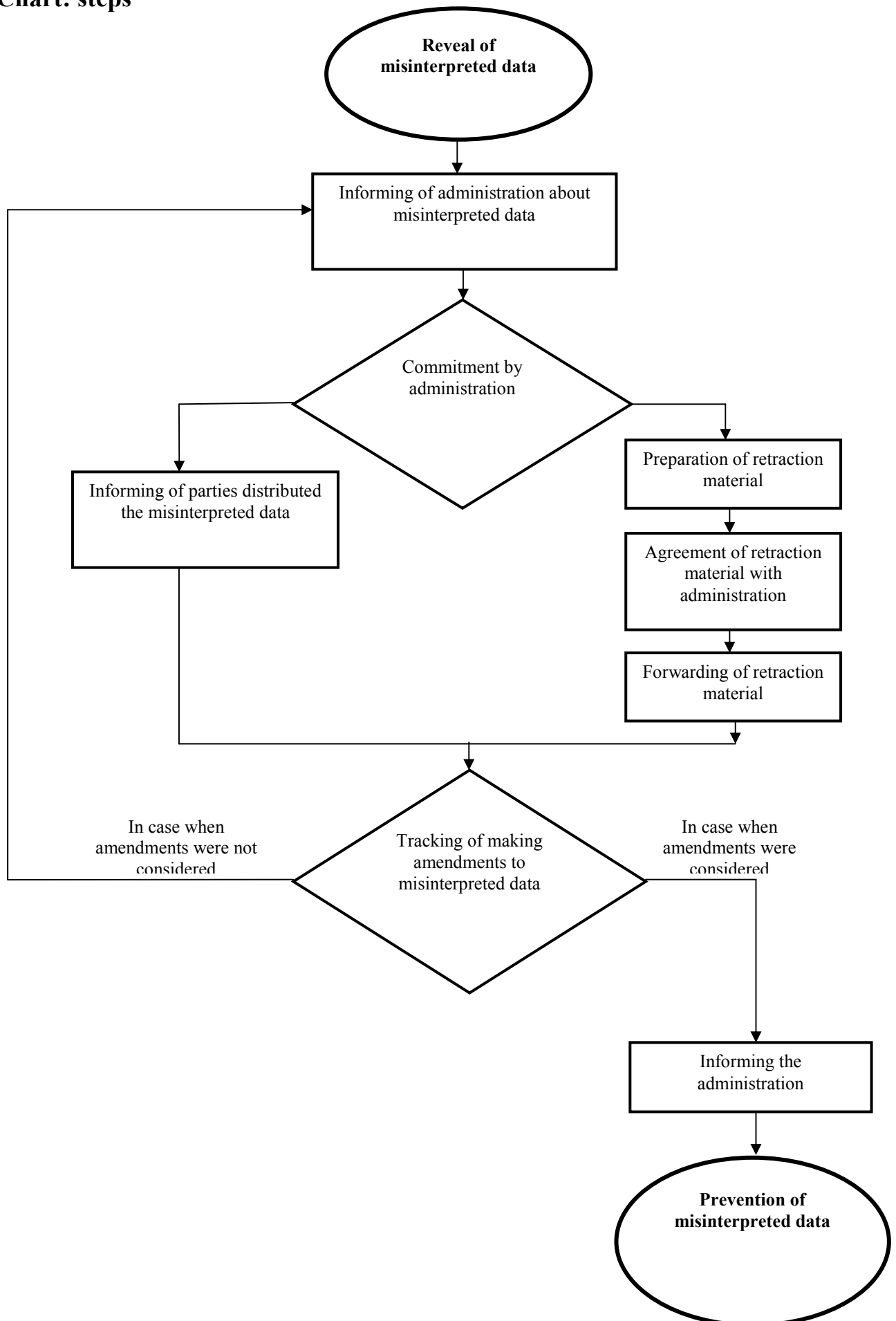
To be expected principles during retraction

- retraction made by statistical body should not be of fear nature;
- retraction should include the date of submission of incorrect information, text and author of speech and publication;
- on indication of correct form of misinterpreted statistical information it should be provided the information on the methodology of calculation and correspondence with international standards.

Informing the publicity

There should be regularly placed report in the corresponding section at the official web-page of the Committee in order to inform general public and users about misinterpreted statistical information and its correct version.

It is necessary to be referred to official statistics in all publications of the state statistical bodies and official web-page of the Committee during use of statistical information on the country.

Chart: steps

Literature:

1. The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On official statistics”, 1994
2. Quality management system. Documentation (II edition), 2013
3. Fundamental principles of Official Statistics of Statistical Commission of UN Economic and Social Council.