

National Statistical Service of Republic of Armenia

Historical Review

- Official Statistics of Armenia was formed by the decision of Council of People's Commissars of Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia (SSRA), just after the establishment of soviet power **on October 5, 1921**.
- The first statistical institution was called Statistical Department of Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia, which started its main activity from **January 7, 1922**.
- The Central Statistical Department under the Council of People's Commissars of Soviet Soviet Union was founded **on July 17, 1923** by the decision of Council of People's Commissars of Soviet Union.
- The first population census was conducted **in 1926**, which covered the whole territory of the republic. It was implemented according to scientific methods developed by Russian notable statisticians V. Mikhayelovski and O. A. Kvitkin which became a basis for conducting the next population censuses.
- **In May, 1931** the Council of People's Commissars of Soviet Union made a decision on organizing accounting and statistical work, due to which the centralized management and organization of methodology of people's economy accounting was put on the statistical system. The latter was reorganized into Department of People's Economy Accounting, and the regional departments being subordinated to it, in their turn, managed the regional inspectors' work.
- **In 1932** in Armenia as well as in the whole USSR, the joining of the Department of People's Economy Accounting to the Gosplan (State Planning Committee) ensured quick and decisive turning point in statistical work and gave the system the possibility of active participation in people's economy planning and control of the plan implementation.
- The next population census was conducted **in 1939**, during which firstly applied special methodology and organizational activities ensured accuracy and completeness of population census. During this population census except de facto population, de jure population was also recorded.
- **In 1941-1943** the Department of People's Economy Accounting was called Statistical Department of Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia under the Council of USSR Ministers.
- **In 1944-1948** it was renamed into Statistical Department of Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia under the Gosplan of USSR.
- To conduct livestock census at the all-union level as of **January 1, 1949** in time and at the highest level, the statistical department involved society, soviet and party bodies.
- **In 1949 -1959** the department was called Statistical Department of Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia.
- **In 1960 -1978** it got the name of Central Statistical Department under the Council of SSRA Ministers.
- From **1957** it was put an end to parallelism between recording and statistical reports. The centralization of collection and design of the statistical reports was initially connected to the automatization of computing work program software. At the end of 1950s computing stations were created attached to the Central Statistical Department of Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia and its units, which year after year undertook statistical information collection and processing.
- The third, but the first post war population census was conducted in **January, 1959**. The data collection methodology and population census program were almost the same as compared with the previous population censuses. The data of 1959 population census enabled to estimate the losses of human resources and the socio-demographic changes inflicted by the World War II. The population census data served as a basis for further economy calculation of planning and management and population current and projection estimates.

- In terms of its scale and methodology it was very difficult to draw up an inventory and revaluation of fixed assets of the economy at common prices according to the all-union plan as of **January 1, 1960**. It was resulted valuable data characterizing the material and technical basis of the economy of the republic. Planning and statistical bodies began to calculate the indicators on production and national income use (**1958**), to make up balances of labor resources, monetary incomes and expenditures of population (**1960**), main tangible balances (**1961**), to calculate real incomes of population (**1963**), to draw up financial resources and input-output balances (**1966**).
- The most important phases of the history of Statistics of Armenia were the conduction of all-union population censuses in **1970** and in **1979**. During 1970 population census, for the first time in the statistical practice of the country, by the help of special reader equipments the information from the census questionnaires was entered into the electronic computers and afterwards registered on the magnetic tapes. In the program of population census new questions were added and a part of the questions were reedited.
- **In 1979-1987** the department was called Central Statistical Department of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia.
- **In 1987** it was renamed into State Statistical Committee of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia.
- The last (the sixth) population census of the Soviet Union took place in **1989**, a month later after the disastrous earthquake of December, 1988 and within an environment of political and economic unstability caused in the republic due to the Gharabagh conflict. In such situation as well as due to methodological incompliance of inter-republican registration and exchange of information on refugees and those evacuated from the disaster area, the results of **1989** population census very quickly lost their relevance, therefore as a basis of RA population estimates became the current data as of **January 1, 1989**.
- Finally it became clear for Soviet countries which declared state independence, that the system of Soviet economic and statistical information, was not only incomplete but even was worthless in many directions for characterizing and evaluating changes occurring in social and public life of independent country's economy which pass into liberal economy and the new industrial and public relations.
- **On December 30, 1991** according to the conference minutes of CIS countries' authorities it was decided to coordinate the activity and efforts of statistical services of CIS countries. For that purpose, the statistical authorities of the countries included in CIS structure formed council of statistical bodies' authorities on February 5, 1992 in Minsk the capital of Belarus. Interstate Statistical Committee of CIS was formed attached to it.
- On June 26, 1992 the leaders of CIS countries signed a very important document on exchange of economic information for statistical bodies and due to which it was decided to exchange statistical information among national statistical services via Interstate Statistical Committee of CIS.
- Since **December, 1992** RA Statistical body has been closely cooperating with Eurostat within the framework of technical assistance of Tacis program:
- The necessity of formation of consultant institute of the statistical office of European Union (Eurostat) was occurred in order to coordinate the staff training in the sphere of accounting and statistics, providing with methodological materials, activity of different international organizations assisting by other technical ways, as well as to increase the productivity of cooperation with statistical offices of CIS countries. This idea became a reality on **March 9, 1993** in Luxembourg during the first conference of leaders of CIS statistical offices and international economic organizations organized by Eurostat.
- In 1992-1998 State Statistical Committee of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia was renamed into RA State Department of Statistics, State Register and Analysis.
- On April 20, 1998 it was renamed into RA Ministry of Statistics, State Register and Analysis.
- According to the RA Law "On State Statistics" come into force **on May 10, 2000** the RA Ministry of Statistics, State Register and Analysis restructured as RA National Statistical Service.
- Taking into account the necessity of the conduction of population census, RA National Assembly adopted RA Law "On Population Census" in **October, 1999** and due to it the date of conduction of population census of the Republic of Armenia was fixed 2001.
- According to the RA Government decision N 78 adopted **on February 19, 2000** the National Commission for organization and conduction of population census was created and the date of

conduction was fixed **October 10-19, 2001**. USAID, UNFPA, DFID, the Governments of Switzerland, Holland, and Greece, the World Bank informed their willingness of providing financial assistance.

- RA Population Census conducted **on October 10-19, 2001** was the first census in the Republic of Armenia that became reality in the conditions of independence.
- On **March 29, 2001** on initiative of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia (NSSRA), the Republic of Armenia subscribed to International Monetary Fund's (IMF) General Data Dissemination Standard (GDDS), to ensure the quality, transparency, data comparability, to give wider possibilities to international public for their use, to inform the applying methodology and programs of its further development.
- On **November 7, 2003** in the result of joint work implemented by the specialists of NSSRA, RA Ministry of Finance and Economy and RA Central Bank, the Republic of Armenia subscribed to Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) (thus becoming the 54th country being subscribed to that standard), taking a very important step directed to the compliance of the country's statistical system with one of the most important international standards.
- On **April 29, 2008** Armenia was elected as a new member of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The membership term is a four-year period beginning **1 January 2009**.