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ARMENIA

TACIS STATISTICAL PROGRAMME

COUNTRY REPORT

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1 INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

1.1 Mission

The mission of the National Statistical Service (NSS) is to compile and publish statistics for public use.

Name of the Statistical Office: National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia (NSS).

Head of the Office: President of the National Statistical Service of RA

The supreme body of governance: State Council on Statistics.

Main functions/terms of references of the NSS:

- to collect, process, summarise, analyse and publish statistical data,
- to co-operate with related ministries and government departments in the collection of statistical information,
- to develop methodologies for statistical work,
- to co-ordinate the information and data collection according to the unified classification and coding system based on international standards,
- to organise statistical surveys,
- to carry out a population census every 10 years,
- to establish maintain and update a Business Register,
- to provide users with statistical information,
- to ensure the transparency and accessibility of summary statistical information,
- to co-operate with international organisations and other national statistical services.

1.2 Structure and organisational aspects

- Internal organisation of the NSI

The statistical system of the Republic of Armenia is completely centralised and financed from the state budget. It is comprised of the Central Office, the Yerevan City Agency, and 10 Regional Agencies (in the marzes). There are 20 statistical departments and 8 administrative departments within the structure of the NSS of Armenia (for more detailed information see annexes 1 and 2).

- Appointment procedures

The **Head of the NSS** and 6 members of the State Council on Statistics are appointed by the President of the Republic for a term of 6 years.

The President of NSS at the same time holds the post of the Chairman of the State Council on Statistics.

6 members of the State Council on Statistics should have skills in the following fields of statistics:

- demography, sociology and public activity
- regional governance and local self -governance
- financial-credit and banking statistics
- ecology

- management of entrepreneurial activity
- information technologies

The Deputy Vice President is appointed by the State Council on Statistics on the recommendation of the President of NSS.

The regulations and structure of NSS and its regional and functional units are confirmed by the State Council on Statistics.

The Heads of the regional units are appointed by the President of NSS.

The Heads of functional units are appointed by the Chief of Staff of NSS.

- Regional structure

Central Office, Yerevan City Agency, 10 Regional Statistical Agencies (named: “marz agencies”).

The regional (marz) agencies are financed from the budget of the NSS.

The Heads of regional (marz) statistical agencies are appointed by the President. Other staff are appointed by the Chief of Staff of NSS. The number of staff in the agencies varies from 8-44. Usually at least 8 PCs are available in each agency.

The main responsibilities of the regional agencies include data collection, data input into PCs and some times logical control. They also disseminate publications of the NSS in their region. Once a quarter the regional agencies prepare and disseminate aggregated data about the region.

- Scientific institutes

A scientific institute under supervision of the Statistical Office does not exist. However there is a Scientific Council (see paragraph 1.7). There is no statistical society yet.

A course on statistics is taught at the State Economic Institute. At the same institute there is a Department of Statistics, where 15 teachers work. 25 students educated in statistics graduate annually. The top management of the NSS gives lectures at the Institute.

- Organisation and Working conditions

The State Council on Statistics adopted a regulation of the NSS in September 2002. It contains the following elements:

1. General provisions
2. Main tasks of the Service
3. Main functions of the Service
4. Authorities of the Service
5. Responsibilities of the Service
6. Governance and Work Organisation of the Service

The central building of the NSS is located on the 6th and 7th floors of the Government House No3, Republic avenue, Yerevan city. There are 9 other organisations in the same building. 57 offices (including the offices of the leaders and offices of the auxiliary service) are occupied by the NSS. There are on average 4 staff members per office.

Offices are in generally in poor condition. They have not been renovated since 1979. However corridors and some 12 offices have already been repaired and special doors have been installed on each floor for computer protection.

A mini-automatic telephone exchange was installed in the central building in 2003. The international statistical co-operation division has the only right to make international telephone calls, since 2005, President, Vice-President, Members of the State Council on Statistics and Chief of Staff also have the right to make international telephone calls.

The Main Computing Centre within the NSS was abolished in January 1996. A new unit called "Information Technology Department" was created in February 1998 and is responsible for installation of equipment, software and training.

1.3 Legal setting

- Law on State Statistics

The strategy, objectives and tasks of Statistics are based on the law of Armenia „**On State Statistics**“, which came into force on 10 May 2000. It was developed based on the pattern of a statistical Law provided by Eurostat.

According to the new Law the Ministry of Statistics was transformed into the National Statistical Service (NSS). It has received the status of an institution serving the public interest and independent from government bodies and local government.

The new Law also regulates the establishment and maintenance of statistical registers, introduces widely the principle of statistical confidentiality and puts more emphasis on the involvement of users in the development of the statistical programme.

- Other relevant administrative regulations

The Law “On Population Census” (adopted on October 12th, 1999) came into force in November 1999. It gave guidelines for the population census, which was organised in 2001. The preparation of the law was supported by the Tacis programme.

The Law defines the tasks, requirements and responsibilities of all institutions involved in the preparation and implementation of the population census. It also regulates financial means, rights and duties of citizens as well as the confidentiality of individual data gathered during the population census.

The Law “On Agricultural Census” has been adopted by the RA Government`s Decree on 29 November 2007.

The Law on Civil Service, adopted on 4 December 2001, came into force on 9 January 2002. The provisions of this law have been fully introduced for the NSS staff since 1 December 2002.

- Data confidentiality

The RA Law on State Statistics defines the confidentiality principle and the responsibilities if it were violated. In practice the NSS does not provide individual data to anybody.

Individual data can only be published with prior written agreement of the data provider. In case of legal units this agreement should be given by their executive body or any

other body having the appropriate authorisation according to the regulation. The agreement can contain restrictions concerning the use of data. In case of information reflecting monopoly activities (e.g. zoo, state opera house) the confidentiality principle is not strictly applied. In cases where completeness of information should be guaranteed the decision on dissemination of the data is taken by the Council.

For scientific research work confidential data may be used or published in exceptional cases in such a form that does not allow the direct identification of individual data. Again the Council takes the decision.

Providing of individual data to staff-members of an institution carrying out a statistical survey and to persons rendering services to this institution is not considered as publication of confidential data if:

- a) data are necessary for statistical purposes,
- b) these persons abstain from publication of the data.

Any institution implementing statistical work according to the order established by the Council must take measures for the protection of individual data.

- Statistical work programmes

The three year statistical work programme is approved by the Parliament of RA together with an initial obligation to provide the necessary budget for its implementation. However, the size of the budget is decided when the annual state budget is defined.

Based on the three year statistical work programme the State Council on Statistics decides the contents of the annual programme.

- Regulations of the State Council on Statistics and other normative acts

The Supreme body of Governance of the NSS is the State Council on Statistics consisting of 7 members. It is authorised to accept normative acts with legal character in the field of statistics.

- Registers

The former Ministry of Statistics, State Register and Analysis of RA was responsible for the State (administrative) Register. The NSS is into longer responsible for it. (see paragraph 2.3).

1.4 Relationship with Central and Local Governments

- Role of the NSS in the government

The National Statistical Service of RA, as an institution charged with serving the public interest, is independent from the state and local government bodies in its statistical activities. The NSS has to report to the Parliament about the implementation of the annual and three year statistical programmes.

The NSS has a co-ordinating role for the statistical system in the country. Other Ministries or government institutions have to agree upon methodology with the NSS when carrying out their own specific statistical surveys. However, survey results may be published independently from the NSS. There are cases where differing data on the same subject are provided by different Ministries.

Data provided by the NSS are recognised by the government as being official statistics. There are no attempts from the government to influence data delivered by the NSS. The President of the NSS participates in the meetings of the Cabinet of Ministers with the right of advisory vote.

- Relations and Links at central level with Ministries

In accordance with the annual statistical work programme, which has a status of a normative act, the NSS receives data from the Ministry of Finance of RA (government finance statistics), Ministry of Justice of RA (data of the state register of legal and physical persons), Customs Committee under the RA Government (external trade data), State Tax Service under the RA Government (the tax register), State Committee on Cadastre under the RA Government (data on purchase and sale of the real estate), Ministry of Social Security (data on unemployment), Ministry of Nature Protection of RA (ecology data), Ministry of Education and Science of RA (education data), RA Police (data on crime), State Fund of Social Security (on pension security) and the Central Bank of RA (banking statistics) that also has an agreement concluded with the NSS on data delivery.

- Protection of NSS independence

The Law on State Statistics contains the following stipulations:

- The independence of the members of State Council on Statistics
- The adoption of the three year programme by the Parliament includes a principle obligation to provide the necessary budget for its implementation
- The NSS has the right to render paid services, though the relevant procedures have not been developed so far, because in compliance with the Law of RA on Governmental Authorities, only national duties may be collected in payment for services rendered.

- Relations and Links at regional level with Local Governments

The regional agencies operate independently from the regional government bodies and local government bodies. They also publish statistics at the regional level.

1.5 Relationship with users and dissemination policies

- Relationship with users

The NSS is responsible for providing statistical information to users within the framework of the statistical work programme. Based on the users' needs the annual statistical work programme includes:

- the periodicity of presentation of statistical indicators,
- the list of surveys to be implemented by the NSS,
- the list of publications,
- the list of new and specially commissioned statistical news,
- a list of permanent users of publications,
- the timetable.

The address of the NSS Website: [http:// www.armstat.am](http://www.armstat.am)

Email address: armstat@sci.am

- Dissemination and marketing policy

The NSS publishes regular **monthly reports** in Armenian and Russian on the economic and social situation of the country.

The existence of a separate publication department has streamlined the process of dissemination. Quite a number of publications are already available in English (see annex 3).

Since 1998 Tacis assistance in **dissemination and publication of statistical information** has allowed for significant improvements in publication policy. The publication programme has expanded. The structure, content and design of publications have been improved and relations with users of statistical information intensified. The Statistical Yearbooks 1997, 1998; 1999, 2000; 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 have been published in Armenian, Russian and English. Latter 4 yearbooks have also been published on CD-ROM.

The development of a marketing policy is the topic for future Tacis co-operation.

The NSS has applied to the IMF Statistics Department with a request for subscription to the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS). As a result, Armenia has become a subscriber to GDDS since 29 March 2001 and to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) since 7 November 2003.

According to the Prime-Minister's order (Protocol No 28 dated 19.07 2007) a Public Relations Division consisting of 3 people has been created within the NSS on 1 August 2007.

- Relations with the press

NSS publishes in detail the information on social and economic situation of the country in the main newspapers every quarter. Related to this publication, press releases are issued and press conferences are organised.

The NSS provides the 7 main information agencies of the country with statistical publications on a regular basis.

The NSS Newsletter, describing all the measures and events related to NSS's activity is published every two months.

A calendar of publications exists and is part of the annual statistical work programme. It contains the type of publication, time, language and brief description of its content.

- Publication of sensitive data

All sensitive data, such as GDP, inflation and unemployment rate, are included in the monthly publications. All categories of clients receive the press release at the same time. The dates of the publication of such press releases are fixed and known to the public via all the country's information agencies.

- Monitoring the demand for statistics

The top management of the NSS tries to follow up the different requests for statistical information in the country.

Monitoring of user needs has been implemented since 1998. It covers state institutions, scientific, academic and business world, mass media, public and international organisations. The state statistical work programme takes these needs into account, The monitoring of user needs is performed by the methodological division and division of information with the aim of considering them during the development of the draft annual statistical work programme. Afterwards the draft statistical work programme is distributed to a large number of users of statistical data. Recommendations and comments are received from state bodies and local self-government, public organisations, scientific and educational institutions, mass media, international organisations, representatives of big and small business and others.

1.6 Relationship with data suppliers

- Access to administrative sources

The administrative State register was transferred to the Ministry of Justice and the NSS has access to it for updating its business register. It has also access to the tax and social security registers. However it currently does not have access to tax records. Access to such information would lead to considerable improvements in the business register and to the efficiency of business surveys and to major improvements in the compilation of National Accounts.

The NSS receives data from the Ministry of Finance of RA, the Central Bank (Balance of Payments), other Ministries maintaining own their registers and the National Labour Market Office (unemployment).

- Relations with reporting units

All the reporting units are obliged to take part in statistical surveys and present a complete and good quality data set if the Council had decided upon this in the statistical work programme.

Response rate for economic surveys is in average 95% of the total number of active economic units surveyed.

Response rate for household surveys is about 93, 1 %, for migration surveys about 93% and for other social surveys about 90-95%.

In the case of non-response all methods are used in order to keep track of the suppliers. The NSS endeavours to establish good relations with the reporting units by giving feedback and disseminating statistical information and methodology to them. The law on statistics makes provision for administrative and financial penalties for non-response.

For households surveys the reporting units are reimbursed for their efforts.

- Interviewer network

A network of 391 interviewers carries out price, household and agriculture surveys. The network covers all the regions (marzes) of Armenia. The enumerators are paid by the state budget. For financial reasons there is no training for the interviewers at present.

For ad-hoc and Tacis paid surveys interviewers are hired on a contract basis.

1.7 Planning and programming

- Planning process

A long-term multi-annual integrated statistics development plan (“Three year State Statistical Work Programme of the statistical system of the Republic of Armenia in 2006-2009”) was developed by the Council in co-operation with all the staff of the NSS. The programme was as well discussed and agreed with all categories of users. On 29 November 2006 it was adopted by the Parliament of Armenia as a law.

The annual statistical work programme for 2008 was adopted on 24 December 2007.

Within a month after the adoption of the Law of RA on State Budget the State Statistics Council approves the annual statistical work programme.

Both the long-term and the annual programmes are designed taking into account the problems, needs and weak points in the statistical system, user needs and international requests.

The implementation of both programmes is monitored by the Council, which reports on the fulfilment of the three-year statistical work programme to the Parliament.

- Adoption procedures

After the approval of the three year programme by the Parliament the Council designs and confirms the annual statistical programme. This takes place one month after the adoption of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia thus backing the annual programme with the allocated resources.

All the adoption procedures are described in the new law and implemented in the practice.

- Scientific board/Advisory board

A Scientific Council exists. Previously it influenced, on a consulting basis, the decision making in the methodology. After the reorganisation of the NSS its tasks and role have remained unchanged.

- Reference to the list of surveys

Questionnaires for surveys are prepared by the appropriate units of NSS jointly with the methodology division. They take into account recommendations of the SNA division. In other cases the draft questionnaires are agreed with the data suppliers as well as with the main users (state institutions, banks, etc.). Usually survey questionnaires are tested in some well known enterprises.

A huge number of different surveys still exist although the NSS has reviewed and reduced them. Lots of old type indicators were abolished from the surveys as part of this review process.

1.8 Finance and budgeting

- National budget

It is assumed that the national budget is sufficient to support the payments of the actual salary and operational costs. Equipment and large field operations have been covered by external funds until now.

The 2005 global budget accounted for 757,0 Mln. Dram (=2488,3 Thousand USD or 1693,7 Thousand EURO).

78,2 % of the budget goes to personnel costs (including social insurance expenditures), 21,8% to operational costs (electricity, heating, telephones, etc.).

Assistance received from the bilateral and multilateral donors (List of co-operation projects given in annex 4)

- UNICEF – 2006 Regional Monitoring Report of the MONEE series (NSS involved in preparing the Armenian chapter, to be included in the regional MONEE report).
- UNICEF – 2007 Regional Monitoring Report of the MONEE series (NSS involved in preparing the Armenian chapter, to be included in the regional MONEE report).
- UNICEF – special study on school wastage and absenteeism in Armenia (NSS involved in education data research and analysis).
- UNDP – Human Development Reports.
- SIDA – Cooperation Project with Statistics Sweden “On Social Statistics in Armenia” (statistics on disabled people, environment statistics, farm register and time use survey).
- World Bank – Support to Regular Integrated Household Survey (expert support).
- World Bank - Dutch Grant for Armenia: Technical Assistance for Statistical Capacity Building-Grant Number TF054516 (strategic and financial management of the statistical system, institutional statistical system, improvement of national accounts, formation of business-register, introduction of regional statistical system, improvement of price statistics, publications and information dissemination).
- USAID/ORC Macro – 2005 Demographic and Health Survey.
- USAID/Competitive Armenia Private Sector Project, The Armenian Tourism Development Agency – Tourism surveys throughout all the entrance points of RA.
- Millennium Challenge Corporation - Integrated Survey of Living Standards.
- International Labour Organisation – Testing the addition of labour migration questions to the national labour force survey of the Republic of Armenia.
- Armenia Health Project Implementation Unit, Ministry of Health of RA - “Health System Modernization” ref. PHRD TF 053436 Japanese Grant Agreement “Opinion Surveys & Survey Field Work for the Evaluation of Health Sector Performance.
- ”FAO – Food Security Program (training, expert support).

- USAID/Competitive Armenia Private Sector Project, The Armenian Tourism Development Agency – Tourism surveys throughout all the entrance points of RA.

1.9 Staffing, staff recruitment and development

- Main characteristics of the staff

The NSS employs 360 people, of which 181 are employed at the headquarters and 179 in the regional agencies. 335 persons out of the central staff have higher education, including 7 qualified scientists. The general level of statistical knowledge is relatively high, though not totally up to date. 73 % are women.

Salaries are relatively low compared to those in the commercial sector. Payment of salaries is done regularly.

- Recruitment procedures

Central body: The Chief of Staff of the NSS is appointed by the President, besides the members of the State Council on Statistics, Vice-President, advisors and assistants. Other staff are appointed by the Chief of Staff.

Regional agencies: heads of regional (marz) agencies are appointed by the President. Other staff is appointed by the Chief of Staff.

- Management style

The management style has improved a lot during the last years. More attention has been given to co-ordination and exchange of information among the different units inside of the office. Teamwork approach received more attention.

- Language abilities

Approximately 45 people in the office are capable to read methodology documents in English. One third of the staff have some understanding of English for reading, guidance and limited communication.

1.10 Training policy

- Training Plan

The staff training is one of the pillars of the NSS international co-operation policy. Training constitutes an essential component of all the co-operation programmes. However, there is no comprehensive training concept yet and training is organised on an ad-hoc basis. The top management is aware of the need to have a training policy developed.

Some kind of training is also organised by the NSS itself allowing sharing knowledge, skills and experiences. It covers the following

1. Meetings for reporting on the results of study visits, business trips and participation at international meetings.

2. Seminars for tailor made training covering a broad range of statistics, methodological issues, practical skills, techniques, etc.
3. Presentations of new publications, methodological materials, new information.
4. Courses held by international experts.

- Library

An open library exists in the NSS. The equipment is very poor and needs to be upgraded. It needs a lot of improvement to guarantee an efficient use of the library. However, recently the stock of information materials has considerably increased and the number of library users has grown. The library electronic catalogue has been created with the Internet access.

1.11 Organisation of International Co-operation

- Existence of a dedicated department

An international relation division exists, which co-ordinates all the international contacts. The staff of the division are well qualified and have very good language skills. The division is extremely well organised.

Agreements on international co-operation:

- Kyrgyzstan (signed 21.04.97, ratified 07.05.98)
- Tajikistan (signed 10.03.98, ratified 20.09.99)
- Russia (signed 14.05.99, ratified 20.09.99)
- Bulgaria (signed 01.12.99, ratified 08.03.2000)
- Belarus (signed 20.09.00, ratified 28.12.2000)

Agreement on the exchange of statistical data on external trade with Eurostat (signed 23.02.99, ratified 20.09.99).

Memorandum of Understanding between the National Statistical Services of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (signed 02.10.1998).

Memorandum on Extension of co-operation between the National Statistical Services of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia (signed 26.05.2000).

Memorandum on further deepening of co-operation between the National Statistical Services of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia (signed 15.10.2002).

Memorandum of Understanding between the National Statistical Service of Armenia, Interstate Statistical Committee of CIS, State Committee on Statistics of Russian Federation on implementation of the international comparisons program in the CIS region (signed 17.12.2003).

2 STATISTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

2.1 Information technology

The work in the Information Technology area has been conducted according to the development concept of the general statistical information system, adopted by the State Council on Statistics on 14.03.2003.

The staff of the Information Technology Department has arranged training courses on computer use, software and competent use of network resources for the personnel of the Central Office, as well as on SPSS, Stata, Arcview.

- Architecture

There is a modem communication linking divisions of the Central Office and regional structures.

At present 6 servers are functioning within the central building. The main features of the IT architecture are:

1. NSS Server for network management (Domain)
2. Unix Server is used to organise the access of NSS staff to INTERNET
3. E-mail Server and modem pool to organise the modem communication with 11 marzes and 18 local units.
4. Intranet-Information internal server containing working and training materials, all the staff members of NSS have an access to it
5. 2 SQL servers are used for databases

A local network is installed in the building of the Central Office. It consists of 190 workstations and each division may use the local network resources.

Local computer networks have been installed in 11 marz agencies.

An optic-fibre cable has been installed to improve the Internet-communication.

The operation systems used within NSS are Windows 95/98/2000/XP and Linux.

For application development MS Access, JavaScript, ASP, ASP.Net, PHP, C#, MS Visual Basic are used. At present 78 local MS Access applications exist and work continues on creation and support of local MS Access databases for all the statistical branches. The classifications database is maintained. Micro- and macro- databases on industry, transport and finance have been created on MS SQL Server. At present work is done to extend databases on SQL Server.

The page for data presentation in the SDDS format has been added on the Internet using MySQL.

- Level of equipment

The following table shows the current situation in computerisation of the NSS:

Level	Number of units	Number of statisticians	Number of computers	Statisticians per PC
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NSS	1	181	243	0.75
Regions	11	179	116	1,54
Total	12	360	359	1.00

Only 50% of computers meet modern requirements.

There is an acute shortage of modern computers and printers in regional units.

- Projects of development

The main aim of the NSS is the development and implementation of the concept of unique statistical information system. In this regard the department of information technologies continues the work on creation and modernisation of a global integrated network (Intranet) that will connect the central body with regional agencies, as well as with government bodies.

The Integrated warehouse of statistical data, as well as appropriate meta-databases is being developed. Transition to single classifications is needed to implement this project.

The work on reconstruction of the official Internet-site with the use of new technologies (PHP, MySQL) is continuing. A database of statistical indicators has been created. Most of them are monthly indicators. The site gives users the possibility to search available statistical indicators by years and themes. It is relatively easy to find publications and other materials on the site using key words. Search for publications can be done by type, theme and year of issue as well.

A working group has been created to introduce GIS technologies.

There remain some problems connected with ensuring statistical data protection and confidentiality.

At present much attention is paid to the creation of statistical data electronic archives. Statistics, data, and indicators are kept on servers and archived daily.

Work on setting up local networks is continuing, and the task of providing all the local units of the NSS with the modem communication is under consideration.

2.2 Classifications

- Use of international nomenclatures

A special working group was created including representatives from branch statistical divisions. As a result a classification division was created within the NSS and now lies within the “statistical work methodology and classifications” division.

The national version of COICOP classification has been introduced.

The development of a national version of CPA has been finished at the 9 digit level. Armenian version of CPA has been adopted by the Ministry of Economy of RA (on 21.02.05, No6-N) and registered by the Ministry of Justice of RA (published on 11.03.05).

The Armenian version of NACE Rev.1.1 has been adopted by the Ministry of Economy of RA (on 22.11.06, No231-N) and registered by the Ministry of Justice of RA (published on 25.12.06).

A new version of HS/CN-2002 has been introduced. NACE Rev.2 is now translated into Armenian and will be introduced at the end of 2008. CPA-2008 is now being developed.

The Common Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) is now under consideration. The NUTS has been translated and preparatory work has been done to develop it and to introduce in the future. Study visits to Statistics Denmark and German Statistical Office, as well as a mission by Danish experts on NUTS is foreseen in TAIEX with a purpose to study the legislative basis, experience, necessary preconditions and measures for NUTS introduction and application. The project will provide advice to the NSS on how to bring issues related to NUTS in the Republic of Armenia into compliance with EU standards, to adopt the NUTS legislation with requirements defined by EU legislation, and to make recommendations on NUTS levels, formats of aggregation and set of indicators necessary for publication (format, periodicity) by NUTS. .

- Introduction into questionnaires

Since 1994 the NSS has been using ISIC for statistical surveys and the business register. In 1999 the NSS management decided to move to NACE. NACE Rev.2 is translated into Armenian and the national version is detailed to 5 digits. The Armenian version of NACE was approved by the State Committee for Standards of RA and on 18 October 2001 was registered by the Ministry of Justice of RA as a normative act, which makes the national version binding for use in statistics of RA. To introduce NACE an interdepartmental commission was created and a plan of measures was developed. The work on coding statistical units in the business register has been carried out. Statistical reporting forms were revised in accordance with NACE. NACE is now introduced into all statistical surveys.

The central statistical classifications are developed taking into account the interrelationship of NACE-CPA-PRODCOM-HS/CN. The national versions of CPA and PRODCOM have already been used in statistical surveys.

HS/CN is used as a basis for external trade statistics and in Customs statistics.

2.3 Business register

- Description

According to the new Law on State Statistics the State Register of legal units has been passed from the NSS to the Ministry of Justice in the middle of 2000. This register was a purely administrative one. Together with the register 200 experts moved from the NSS

to the Ministry. Now there is business register division responsible for the statistical register formation and updating, is composed of 4 people and has 4 PCs.

The Division uses 1 annual questionnaire. The data are collected from all the enterprises by exhaustive method. The classification of enterprises follows the Armenian version of NACE.

Formation and updating the databases used for the statistical register is implemented by direct and indirect information collection.

Approximately 110 000 units have been included since 1994 in the administrative register.

The existing register contains data on legal units and individual entrepreneurs and includes indicators like registration and identification codes, taxpayer code, and type of activity, turnover, and number of employees. The register is used as a basis for sampling, when conducting business surveys. The content of the register needs to be improved. Indicators used in the register need to be adjusted to adopt international standards and classifications with the purpose. The register should also provide a source for analysis of business enterprise demography.

Work and development in this area is significantly supported by the Tacis programme.

The co-operation inside the NSS between the register division and branch statistics divisions has been considerably improved, which allows for systematic updating of the register database with information obtained from survey returns.

Within the contract Statistics 6 of the Tacis programme a sample survey was conducted providing further formation leading to updating the databases of the register of legal units. The business register is a subject of a Statistics 10 project which will contribute to further increases the register's quality.

- Updating strategy

At present in the NSS RA a strategy has been developed on setting up and updating a comprehensive statistical register based on the normative act "On keeping business (entrepreneurial) register in the Republic of Armenia".

The creation of a comprehensive statistical register provides for systematic database updating based on cross-checking with other administrative registers (State Register of Enterprises, State Tax Service under the RA Government, and others) and sample surveys. Updating of databases of the register on acting enterprises is annually implemented on a regular basis. Though the register updating strategy can only be adopted in the practice after the comprehensive statistical register has been built. The completion of this process is scheduled for the end of 2009.

A major improvement in data quality on the business register could be achieved through the use of individual enterprise tax data, and discussions are taking place to open up access to this source of administrative data.

- Use for statistical purpose

At present the business surveys are based on the statistical register's database. As long as there is no comprehensive statistical register developed, the NSS will experience problems with sampling and estimation

3 ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND TRADE STATISTICS

3.1 National Accounts

GDP data are calculated based on SNA93 concepts. All three methods of GDP compilation are used (production, expenditure, income). The production approach provides the most reliable results. All accounts are available except the financial account. GDP data are broken down by sectors and branches for 1990-2007. Quarterly GDP data are available for 1992-2007 in current prices and in prices of the previous year. GDP is calculated also in constant prices (in average annual prices of 2005). Seasonal adjustments for quarterly national accounts have been introduced and growth rates of quarter to the previous quarter of the same year are compiled.

Since 1994 an estimation of the non-observed economy has been included into the GDP figures but exhaustiveness of national accounts has to be improved considerably. Methodology handbooks for compiling GDP in Armenia have been written, including a review of data sources.

Within the contract "Statistics 4" Tacis project on national accounts the sample survey of medical institutions, drug stores and households was conducted with a purpose to measure the non-observed economy in the healthcare and to extend the coverage. The sample survey of non-profit institutions has also been conducted within the framework of the same project aiming at improving of the information base of the branch of public organizations and sector of non-profit institutions, serving households to be used for the national accounts.

Results of the above mentioned surveys have been included in the calculations of GDP for 2002-2005 taking into account the non-observed economy.

National Accounts is a component in the TACIS Statistics 10 project. Work is under way to produce pilot supply and use tables based on input-output analyses. However input-output tables are not yet compiled because of lack of finances.

The development of national accounts is focused on improvement of institutional units, accounts of sectors and sub-sectors, and satellite accounts. GDP for institutional units and accounts of sectors have been developed for 1990-2007. At the moment GDP calculations by sub-sectors for 2000-2006 have been finished. Links between GDP growth and the environment is another issue to be tackled in the future.

The work is under way on the introduction of ESA-95 elements; in particular, data on GDP and VAT by industries of A3, AX and A17. with the view to publishing aggregates of NACE at current and constant prices..

The work on development of the financial account has been started. It is also foreseen to develop regional accounts.

3.2 Estimation of Non-Observed Economy

The non-observed economy is a major component of GDP of Armenia (about 27%-30%). The NSS received assistance from the OECD to develop methods for producing estimates of the contribution that the NOE.. When this co-operation came to an end in 1998 a Tacis project was developed.

Within Tacis the NSS endeavoured to improve the information sources used in the national accounts (main methods for GDP estimation, input/output techniques, surveys on the non-observed economy, as well as surveys by separate branches on sectors of the economy).

Within the framework of the "Informal Sector Survey" project financed by UNDP/ILO the NSS has conducted the following sample surveys to improve the coverage of NA aggregates:

1. Tobacco Consumption Survey,
2. Survey of Micro- and Small-sized Enterprises,
3. Labour Force Survey,
4. Survey of Self-employed and employers.

Based on the survey results the actual number of functioning enterprises with the number of employees up to 10 persons could be defined and survey data were used for evaluations of the under-recorded part of the economy.

Furthermore, the situation on the labour market, the actual supply of labour force, and the structure of the employment and unemployment were analysed. Information about non-registered economic activities was provided. The phenomenon of hidden employment is more prevalent in the sphere of self-employment.

Results are used to recalculate data on production and turnover of retail trade and to define the role of micro and small enterprises within the economy of the country. The self-employment rate was defined for different regions. The self-employed aspect and its influence on the labour market have been analysed.

Since recently some business statistics divisions (industry, transport, trade and services) have been imputing the non-observed economy in their branches and submit these data to the national accounts division to compile aggregate data. The methodology of imputation is agreed with the national accounts division.

3.3 External Trade Statistics

The NSS is responsible for compiling external trade statistics, Balance of Payments, International Investment Position (IIP) and Gross External Debt for Armenia.

The NSS introduced customs based external trade statistics in 1993. The Armenian Customs Committee uses the Single Administrative Document for the registration of external trade activities. The commodity nomenclature is based on the Harmonised System (HS-2007).

The NSS has developed its own software for data processing. The Tacis programme supported hardware for the external trade division.

The first mirror statistics exercises were organised between Armenia and Georgia. Some reasons for the big discrepancies between their data were found and, based on these, the quality of the data was improved. The NSS continues the mirror exercises with Georgia and added some other main traders (in particular Germany) under the “Statistics 4” contract.

A memorandum of understanding concerning exchange of external trade data between NSS and Eurostat was signed and is implemented. Data for all four quarters of 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 and for one quarter of 2008 were sent to Eurostat.

Until 2001 the geographic breakdown of import was implemented on a country signed agreement. Since 2001 figures are based on country of consignment. Since 2005 the NSS implements the geographic breakdown of imports by country of origin.

The pilot sample survey on export and import of services financed by Tacis funds was introduced in 1999. For the first time the NSS received statistical information on international trade services that was used for the improvement of BOP compilations. Based on the survey results a register of enterprises dealing with international trade services has been created.

External trade data are available and comparable with European data in general. They are published monthly (Social and Economic Situation of Armenia) and yearly (Statistical Yearbook). In addition to these publications, special handbooks Foreign Trade of the Republic of Armenia for 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 (by 2 digit codes), Foreign Trade of the Republic of Armenia for 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 (by 4 digit codes), and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Armenia for 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 (by 8 digit codes) were published.

Since 2001 the NSS, following the methodology of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), has been keeping statistics of international and internal tourism. However, the reporting data do not provide such indicators needed for calculating the number of visitors, their expenditures, geographic distribution. (NSS receives these data only from hotels). To get these data, a sample survey of international trade services (international tourism at cross-border checkpoints) and a sample survey of international cargo transportation and insurance of enterprises involved in foreign trade have been conducted within the contract Statistics 4 of the Tacis Programme.

External assistance is mainly needed to improve a tourism statistics within development of satellite account on tourism.

4 POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

4.1 Demographic Statistics

The population census in Armenia took place from the 10th to 19th of October 2001 (the pilot sample survey took place from the 6th to 15th of September 2000).

The major problem in conducting the Population Census was its funding. Due to numerous efforts of NSS and with the help of the World Bank, donors were attracted to the National Population Census, whose funds covered almost 80% of the census budget.

The final results of the Population Census have been published in 12 volumes at the national level and by 11 marzes of the republic in December 2003.

In addition, the results of Population Census at the national level and 10% anonymised population census database on CD-ROM have been published for researchers by the US Census Bureau support.

Based on the results of RA 2001 Population Census the population figures for intercensal years (all demographic indicators by republic and marzes) were recalculated. Results have been published in the “Demographic Handbook, 2004” (in Armenian). The Demographic Yearbook of Armenia for 2005, 2006 and 2007 were published in Armenian.

The “Demographic Outline of Southern Caucasus for 1958-1999” handbook (in English) and “Demographic Handbook of Armenia for 1940-2000” (in Armenian) have been published for the first time within the framework of cooperation program with Statistics Sweden and with SIDA financial support.

External assistance is needed to improve methodologies on the population census, demographic indicators, as well as on applying and studying more advanced and new, prospective technologies for the next population census.

On 1 January 2005 the RA Law "On Population Register" came into force. Technical assistance is needed for developing an administrative population register and its adaptation for statistical purposes.

4.2 Migration Statistics

An earthquake struck Armenia in 1988 immediately before the population census which was conducted 12-19 January 1989. During the economic crisis in the 1990s a lot of people left the country. Conflict with the neighbouring country was also a reason for movements of the population. As a consequence, the NSS lost its overview of migration processes. Surveys were organised on **migration statistics** in 1998-1999 as a first attempt to obtain good quality data on migration.

A pilot survey at the border points and the airport was conducted as well as a pilot migration survey of households. According to the survey results two third of departures and arrivals from/to Armenia are done by Armenian citizens. Interesting information was received on social and everyday life and labour conditions, material situation of previous and present emigrants.

The results were very helpful to assess the migration flow inside and outside the country. Moreover, the total number of population was adjusted accordingly. Results

were also used to receive more accurate description of both the demographic and social-economic situation of the country and initiate scientific discussions about methods for population projection.

However, in these surveys seasonality was not taken into account and not all border checkpoints of the Republic were covered, it was deemed necessary to continue the population migration surveys. Since February 2001 the NSS has been conducting a sample survey of migration obtaining information on sex, age, marital status, and educational attainment of the population, as well as on geographic segmentation and seasonality.

The special feature of this is that it is conducted within a 12 month period on 5 days of each month selected on a sliding schedule basis.

The volume of accumulated migration and consequences of under-recording of this indicator for the previous years have been estimated based on the Armenia 2001 Population Census. However, the absence of administrative registration of migrants at border checkpoints of the country raises new difficulties related to migrants' registration that raises the necessity to conduct regular surveys of migration processes.

4.3 Labour Force Statistics

The NSS produces labour market statistics based on statistical reports submitted by enterprises and organisations.

Data not included in the state statistical reporting are estimated on the basis of the results of the labour force surveys held in 2004 (enterprises and households).

The data are published monthly (*Socio-economic Situation of Armenia*) and annually (*Statistical Yearbook*). In addition to these publications, there are special handbooks "Labour Market of the Republic of Armenia 1990-1996, 1997-2003, 2003-2006".

A new component under the TACIS Statistics 4 contract in August 2001 supported a labour force sample survey of 2160 households in urban settlements.

Survey results enabled the NSS to correct structural indicators of the economically active population.

Statistics 6 of TACIS program supported a labour force sample survey of households, analysing the incidence of child labour.

Between 1 August 2006 to 28 February 2007 a Labour Migration Survey was conducted with the support of the ILO.

Labour force statistics are a subject of Statistics 10 project which aims to contribute to an increase in the level of compliance with EU requirements and standards in the field of labour market statistics.

An ongoing major problem is the necessity to conduct the labour force survey on a regular basis, which will allow obtaining data on the employment structure and unemployment size.

5 **BUSINESS STATISTICS**

The use of sampling methodology in **business statistics** is now well practised inside the NSS. In 1996 the NSS started to implement sample surveys for small enterprises. In 1998/99 four different sample surveys in industry, construction, transport, retail trade and services, agriculture were implemented and in 2000/2001/2002/2004/2006 – at manufacturing, energy enterprises, in the sphere of services and investments.

The results provide a picture of development of the different economic branches. They also gave the opportunity to produce better estimates of the non-observed economy within SNA estimations and to update the statistical register.

On the basis of short-term indicators new methods for calculation of business confidence were introduced.

There is a good co-ordination between the business statistics divisions and the national accounts division in the NSS. The requirements of the national accountants are taken into account when conducting surveys and collecting data. The quality of some business statistics data do need to be improved to meet the national accounts requirements in full.

Since 2001 the concept of transition from branch to institutional approach in the collection of business statistics has been developed. Putting this concept into practice will be considered following the final formation of the statistical register (legal units and individual entrepreneurs).

5.1 **Structural statistics**

Sample surveys are conducted for separate branches (industry, construction, trade, transport, communications, services, etc.) on an annual basis. Results are used for the SNA compilation.

5.2 **Industry statistics**

- The Industry Division, responsible for industry and energy statistics, is composed of 8 people (8 specialised in industry) and has 8 PCs available within the Division.
- The Division uses 1 monthly and 7 yearly questionnaires. The monthly questionnaire asks for turnover and number of employees whereas the yearly is extended to list of products, production costs, etc. The data are collected from the enterprises by different methods (mail, phone, etc.). Questionnaires follow the National Accounts requirements. The classification of enterprises follows the Armenian version of NACE, starting from 2001. At present a work is continued on CPA final introduction.
- Monthly and annual data are collected from all enterprises with 20 and more employees by exhaustive surveys, for the enterprises with less than 20 employees a quarterly sampling approach is used. The data from the sample surveys are grossed-up to produce general population estimates.
- Data are published monthly (*Socio-economic Situation in Armenia*, “*The main indicators of industry by type of economic activity (in value, number of employees and by marzes)*”, “*The production of main kinds of products (in kind)*”) and yearly (*Statistical Yearbook*). In addition to these publications, special handbooks

“Industry of the Republic of Armenia for 1990-1997”, “Industry of the Republic of Armenia for 1998-2003” were published.

- There is a close co-operation with the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, and Ministry of Territorial Governance.
- The Division is significantly supported by the Tacis programme.
- The main problem is to develop a nomenclature of goods and to collect the corresponding data.
- Sampling is already widely introduced but has to be improved for the survey of industrial enterprises.

5.3 Construction Statistics/ Investment Statistics

- The Construction Division consists of 5 persons (5 specialised in construction) and has 4 personal computers available in the Division.
- The Division uses 4 monthly and 5 annual questionnaires. Data are collected from the enterprises by different methods (mail, phone, etc.). Questionnaires follow National Accounts requirements. Classification of enterprises follows the same classification of activities as for Industry.
- Monthly and yearly data are collected from all enterprises independently of the number of employees. Estimates of construction at the expense of public funds are implemented on a regular basis.
- Data are published monthly (*Socio-economic Situation in Armenia*), quarterly (in quarterly bulletins) and yearly (*Statistical yearbook*). In addition to these publications, there are special handbooks *Construction and reconstruction works in the earthquake zone for 1989-1998* and *Construction in the Republic of Armenia for 1990-1999*, *Construction in the Republic of Armenia for 2000-2001*, *Construction in the Republic of Armenia for 2001-2005*.
- There is a close co-operation with the Ministry of Territorial Governance, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Finance, territorial government bodies and local self-government bodies.
- The Division is considerably supported by the Tacis programme.
- Within the contract “Statistics 2” of TACIS program the sample survey of individual housing construction in the Republic of Armenia was conducted with a purpose to obtain reliable data on volume and structure, and other characteristics of construction.
- Within the contract “Statistics 4” of TACIS program the sample survey of investments in real assets was conducted with a purpose to obtain reliable data on volume and structure of investments in real assets in industry, transport and communication.
- Construction statistics is a subject of Statistics 10 project which will contribute to increase the data quality on construction.
- The main problem is surveying of individual entrepreneurs (natural persons) dealing with construction work.
- External assistance is mainly needed to discuss such aspects of construction statistics like estimation of non-finished construction, new construction at the expense of enterprises funds, and improvement of the register on permission of new construction.

5.4 Retail and Wholesale Trade Statistics

- The Division of Trade and Other Services is composed of 7 people (3 specialised in trade) and has 6 PCs available within the Division.
- The Division uses 8 monthly, 1 quarterly and 4 annual questionnaires. The classification of enterprises follows the Classification of Activities of Armenian National Economy (NACE).
- Enterprises and individual entrepreneurs dealing with trade are surveyed by sampling method. Fairs and agricultural markets are observed by exhaustive method. The population is stratified by type of activity and number of employees.
- Data are published monthly ("Social and Economic Situation in Armenia") and yearly ("Statistical yearbook"). In addition to these publications, there are special handbooks "Consumer Market of the Republic of Armenia for 1995-2001", "Trade and Services of RA, 2002-2006".
- There is a close co-operation with the Ministry of Economy, territorial state government bodies and local self-government bodies.
- The Division was considerably supported by the Tacis programme.
- The main problem is the estimation of hidden volumes of retail turnover of goods.
- External assistance is mainly needed on estimation of turnover of goods at non-organised agricultural markets, on development of the methodology on estimation of non-observed turnover of goods.

5.5 Transport and Communications Statistics

- The Transport and Communication Statistics Division is composed of 5 people and has 5 PCs available within the Division.
- The Division uses 7 monthly, 8 quarterly and 16 annual questionnaires. The data are collected from the enterprises by different methods (mail, phone, etc.). Classification of enterprises follows the same classification as in Industry.
- Monthly, quarterly and annual data are collected from all enterprises independently of the number of employees by exhaustive surveys. For the evaluation of individual entrepreneurs the method of sample survey is used. The data from the sample survey are grossed-up to produce the general population estimates of enterprises.
- Data are published monthly and yearly ("Social and Economic Situation in Armenia" and "Statistical yearbook"). In addition to these publications, there are special handbooks "Transport and Communication of the Republic of Armenia for 1992-1998", "Transport and Communication of the Republic of Armenia for 1999-2003".
- There is a close co-operation with the Ministry of Transport and Communications, RA Police and other state bodies.
- The Division is considerably supported by the Tacis programme.
- Statistics 2 of TACIS program supported a sample survey of road transport organizations and individual entrepreneurs dealing with goods and passengers transport in the Republic of Armenia and provided reliable data on passenger and cargo transport
- Statistics 6 of TACIS program supported a sample survey of intraurban passenger transport in the Republic of Armenia and provided reliable data on passenger transport.
- The main problem is the estimation of volumes of passenger transport and cargo transport by regions.

- External assistance is mainly needed for methodological aspects related to the evaluation of activity of passenger and cargo transport.

5.6 Service statistics

- Service statistics are produced by the Division of Trade and Other Services, where 4 personnel are involved in services.
- The Division uses 3 monthly and 1 annual questionnaires. The classification of enterprises follows the Classification of Activities of Armenian National Economy (NACE)
- Monthly data are collected from medium and large enterprises by exhaustive surveys, from small enterprises and individual entrepreneurs – by the method of sample survey. The results of the sample surveys are grossed-up to produce general population estimates.
- Data are published monthly (*Socio-economic Situation in Armenia*) and annually (*Statistical Yearbook*). In addition to these publications, there are special handbooks “Consumer Market of the Republic of Armenia for 1995-2001”, “Trade and Services of RA, 2002-2006”.
- There is a close co-operation with the Ministry of Economy.
- The Division was considerably supported by the Tacis programme.
- Statistics 4 of the Tacis programme supported a sample survey of personal services and provided estimates of the volume and structure of personal services.
- The major problem is the estimation of volumes of services in the sphere of tourism, restaurants, and personal services.
- External assistance is mainly needed in the methodology of records of hidden services, as well as on ICT statistics.

5.7 Energy Statistics

- Energy statistics are produced by the Industry Division, where 2 persons are involved in collecting energy statistics.
- The Division uses 1 monthly, 1 quarterly and 5 annual questionnaires on energy. Data are collected from enterprises in different ways (mail, phone, etc.). The questionnaires follow the National Accounts requirements. The classification of enterprises corresponds to the Armenian version of NACE.
- Monthly and annual data are collected from all enterprises with 20 and more employees through exhaustive surveys and enterprises with the number of employees less 20 are surveyed based on sampling. Data of the sample surveys are grossed-up to produce population estimates of enterprises.
- Data are published monthly (*Socio-economic Situation in Armenia*, “*The main indicators of industry by type of economic activity (in value, number of employees and by marzes)*”, “*The production of main kinds of products (in kind)*”) and yearly (*Statistical Yearbook*). In addition to these publications, special handbooks “*Industry of the Republic of Armenia for 1990-1997*”, “*Industry of the Republic of Armenia for 1998-2003*” were published.
- There is a close co-operation with the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources.
- The Division was considerably supported by the Tacis programme.

- Statistics 4 of the Tacis programme supported a sample survey of industrial and transport enterprises which was used to compile energy balances.
- The major problem is the lack of data on consumption of primary and secondary energy resources in agriculture, construction. These statistics are needed to compile the energy balances
- External assistance is mainly needed for studying of methods of energy resources registration, as well as on Energy Balance compilation.

6 AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

- The Agriculture Division consists of 5 persons and has 5 PCs available in the Division.
- The Division uses 8 monthly, 7 quarterly and 16 annual questionnaires. Data are collected from the enterprises, rural communities and farms by exhaustive method and from farms by sample survey method as well. Questionnaires follow National Accounts requirements. Classification of enterprises follows the same classification of activities as for Industry.
- Monthly and yearly data are collected from all enterprises independently of the number of employees.
- Data are published monthly (*Socio-economic Situation in Armenia*), quarterly (in quarterly bulletins) and yearly (*Statistical yearbook*). In addition to these publications, there are special handbooks “Agriculture in the Republic of Armenia for 1990-1999” and “Agriculture in the Republic of Armenia for 2000-2005”.
- There is a close co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and State Committee on Cadastre under the RA Government, territorial government bodies and local self-government bodies.
- The Division was considerably supported by the Tacis programme.
- Statistics 6 of TACIS program supported a sample survey on agriculture statistics with a main goal to improve agricultural statistics and provide for comparability of data in accordance with the international standards.
- The main problem is a lack of data on village’s infrastructure, improvement of sample surveys methodology, estimation methodology of separate indicators in connection with the absence of proper inter-economic registration.
- External assistance is mainly needed to study methods of grossing of survey results to produce estimates for the general population; on improvement and extension of agriculture statistics indicators, as well as on agricultural census and Farm register formation.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The National Statistical Service (NSS) possesses a proper legal basis based on the newly adopted Law on Statistics (May 2000). The independence of the NSS as well as the confidentiality principle is ensured in broad terms. The statistical system is a centralised one with regional agencies being responsible for data collection and

publication of aggregated regional data. The NSS is entirely financed from the state budget for which it suffers from heavy under financing for operational costs. It is therefore, rather dependent on external financing of surveys and sustainability of operations is not fully ensured. The same problem exists for large scale survey operations like the population census, agricultural census, and economic census.

User orientation has become a key approach in the dissemination policy of the office since 2000. The newly adopted law foresees the inclusion of users more widely in programming statistical activities. Some steps have been undertaken in the past to monitor the demands of users and to try to meet them. Various actions are held for users (seminars, the publication "*What is statistics?*" and surveys of statistical data users) and a special consideration is given to regular treatment of the NSS activities and work results through the mass media. The quality and language coverage of publications has improved considerably. The NSS on a realistic track to improve its work with the users but should possibly pay more attention to improvement of dissemination and communication policy.

The programming of statistical activities takes account of various demands coming from all categories of users. It is finalised only after a wide distribution in the country and incorporates comments from all kind of users. The three year programme of statistical activities is adopted by the Parliament as a law and is linked to the appropriate budget. The annual statistical programme is approved by the State Council on Statistics based on the three year programme within one month after the adoption of the Law on the State Budget of the Country.

The NSS has some co-ordinating role for the statistical system in the country. It has access to various kinds of registers and receives data from other Ministries and institutions to compile statistics. Methodology of surveys has to be agreed with the NSS in principle. But a number of surveys are undertaken by other Ministries and results are not necessarily consolidated with the NSS figures. Therefore, the NSS has to strengthen its co-ordinating role in the future. With this purpose the "Order on Administrative Statistical Registers Maintenance" has been developed that as a normative act entered into force since 25 July 2002. In accordance with that order provisions on right to maintain administrative statistical registers have been included in regulations of all ministries and institutions, the methodology of which should be agreed with the State Council on Statistics.

There are only 181 people working in the headquarters most of them having higher education. The total number of employees is 360, the rest of them working in the regional and local agencies. Training of staff is still largely necessary and organised so far on ad-hoc basis, no training concept exists. Language capacities in the NSS are rather improved. The management style has improved considerably introducing more team-orientated work with the stress on the increase in self-regulation of units and better coordination and exchange of information.

Other infrastructure elements like registers and classifications are not yet fully in place. After some reorganisation in the government the statistical business register is in the stage of development based on the administrative register of the Ministry of Justice and tax register. The permanent updating strategy has been developed. Sampling is based on the register; however the quality of register information has to be improved. As for the classifications, NACE is applied since 2002 (before it was ISIC), HS/CN and ISCO-88

are used as well. National version of CPA is applied since 2005. All other international classifications are still in development. The level of IT is rather good if to compare with other countries – there is in average 1 PC for 1 statistician. However, the level of equipment in the regional agencies and links between the headquarters and regional agencies need to be improved. For that a strategy for IT development has been elaborated. Besides, only 50% of computers meet modern IT requirements.

Good progress can be reported in the fields of national accounts, external trade statistics, demography statistics and business statistics, including structural statistics. Here basic sets of data are available and further work is needed for improving the quality and coverage of data. Sampling has been introduced at least on a pilot basis and will be further extended to other areas of statistics.

Areas that need substantial development are those of capital market statistics, labour market statistics, coverage of individual units both in the register and the surveys, demographic statistics, price statistics, agricultural statistics, energy and service statistics, and the application of international classifications. In business statistics the transition from branch to an institutional approach of remains to be concluded.

8 ANNEXES

Annex 1: Organisational Chart of NSS of the Republic of Armenia

Annex 2: Staff numbers

Annex 3: List of main publications

Annex 4: List of co-operation projects

Annex 1: Organisational Chart of NSS of the Republic of Armenia

Annex 2: Staff numbers

Number of employees 360, including 181 in the Central Body, of which:

1. State Council on Statistics - 7 members
2. Vice President – 1
3. Chief of Staff – 1
4. Deputy of Chief of Staff – 1
5. Main Auditor - 1
6. Labour Statistics - 5
7. Population Census and Demography Division - 5
8. Prices and International Comparisons Division - 6
9. Social Sphere and Ecology Statistics Division – 7
10. Household Surveys Division – 5
11. Management of Information Resources and Technologies Department - 1
 - a. Development of Information Technologies Division - 3
 - b. Database and Programming Division - 4
 - c. Network and Technical Service Division - 3
12. Statistical Work Methodology and Classifications Division - 5
13. Macroeconomic Indicators and National Accounts Division - 7
14. Balance of Payments and Foreign Trade Statistics Division - 6
15. Finance Statistics Division - 6
16. Industry Statistics Division - 8
17. Construction Statistics Division - 5
18. Agriculture Statistics Division - 5
19. Transport and Communication Division - 5
20. Trade Statistics and Other Services Division - 7
21. Business-Register Division - 4
22. Information Dissemination and Marketing Division – 7
23. Printing and Copying Division - 4
24. Statistical Reporting Accounting and Monitoring Division - 4
25. Accounting Division -12
26. Financial and Economic Division - 4
27. Procurement and Logistics Division - 11
28. Personnel Management Division - 4
29. International Statistical Co-operation Division – 5
30. Food Security Statistics Division -5
31. President`s Staff - 8
32. General Division - 3
33. First Division - 1
34. Legal Division - 2
35. Public Relations Division -3
 - a. Library - 1

Annex 3: List of main publications

1. Peculiarities and stages of economic reforms in Armenia for 1991-1998.
2. Social indicators of Poverty, 1998.
3. Construction-reconstruction works in the earthquake disaster zone 1989-1998.
4. Survey of external migration process in the Republic of Armenia for 1991-1998.
5. Foreign trade in the Republic of Armenia 1997, 1998, 1999.
6. Socio-economic condition of rural farms and indices of agricultural goods in RA, 1999.
7. Report on sample survey of micro- and small-size industrial enterprises of RA - I and II stages, 1999.
8. Demographic Outline of Southern Caucasus for 1958-1999.
9. Registered Legal Persons of the Republic of Armenia, 2000.
10. Report on Retail Trade Enterprises (shops) and Kiosks Sample Survey of RA, 2000.
11. "National Accounts for Everybody" Handbook, 2000.
12. Construction of RA for 1921-2000.
13. Report on Sample Survey of the Organizations Producing Foodstuff and Beverages, 2000.
14. Family and Children in Armenia for 2000.
15. Results of the Pilot Population Census conducted in RA from 6 to 15 September 2000.
16. Demographic Handbook of Armenia for 1940-2000.
17. "What is Statistics?" , 2001.
18. 80 years of Official Statistics of Armenia, 2001.
19. "Armenia, 2001", Statistical Booklet.
20. Report on Sample survey of International Trade in Services of the Republic of Armenia, 2001.
21. Report on Sample Survey "Labour Force in the Urban Settlements of RA", 2001.
22. The Results of 2001 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia (Figures of the Republic of Armenia).
23. The Results of 2001 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia (Figures of Yerevan City).
24. The Results of 2001 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia (Figures of Marz of Aragatsotn).
25. The Results of 2001 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia (Figures of Ararat).
26. The Results of 2001 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia (Figures of Armavir).
27. The Results of 2001 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia (Figures of Gegharkunik).
28. The Results of 2001 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia (Figures of Lori)
29. The Results of 2001 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia (Figures of Kotayk).
30. The Results of 2001 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia (Figures of Shirak).

31. The Results of 2001 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia (Figures of Syunik).
32. The Results of 2001 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia (Figures of Vayots Dzor).
33. The Results of 2001 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia (Figures of Tavush).
34. Tobacco Consumption in the Republic of Armenia, 2001.
35. Report on Sample Survey of International Trade in Services of RA, 2001.
36. Consumer Market in the Republic of Armenia for 1995-2001.
37. Report on Sample Survey of Financial Results of the Non-profit Institutions Activity during 2001.
38. Registered enterprises of RA (3 volumes), 2002.
39. Legal Acts, regulating statistics sphere of RA, 2002.
40. Methodological Documents of statistics of RA (2 volumes), 2002.
41. "Poverty and Food Security" quarterly statistical handbook. 2002.
42. Report on Sample Survey of the Organizations and Individual Entrepreneurs Rendering Domestic Services to the RA Population, 2002.
43. Report on Sample Survey of Investments Implemented in the Real Assets, 2002.
44. Report on Sample Survey of the Organizations Engaged in Foreign Trade, 2002.
45. Report on Sample Survey of the Statistical Users, 2002.
46. Report on Sample Survey of the Healthcare Organizations and Drug Stores and Households Expenditures on Healthcare Services, 2002.
47. International Classifications: Tasks of the National Classifications Development, 2002.
48. Report on Sample Survey of the Energy Producing and Consuming Organizations, 2002.
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Annex 4: List of co-operation projects

No	DONOR	COMPONENT	DATE	FUNDS
1.	UNICEF	MONEE 2006 Regional Monitoring Report	2006	2 200 USD
2.	UNICEF	MONEE 2007 Regional Monitoring Report	2007	1 980 USD
3.	UNICEF	Special study on school wastage and absenteeism in Armenia	2006	1 400 USD
4.	SIDA	Cooperation Project with Statistics Sweden “On Social Statistics in Armenia” (farm register, living conditions for disabled persons, time use statistics, environment statistics and IT-equipment).	2006-2009	3 627 908 SEK
5.	The World Bank	Dutch Grant for Armenia: Technical Assistance for Statistical Capacity Building-Grant Number TF054516 (strategic and financial management of the statistical system, institutional statistical system, improvement of national accounts, formation of business- register, introduction of regional statistical system, improvement of price statistics,	2005-2007	380 000 USD

		publications and information dissemination).		
6.	USAID/ORC Macro	2005 Demographic and Health Survey	2005-2006	366 095 USD
7	USAID/ Competitive Armenia Private Sector Project, The Armenian Tourism Development Agency	Tourism surveys throughout all the entrance points of RA	2007	31956.80 USD
8	Millennium Challenge Corporation	Integrated Survey of Living Standards	2007-2011	327000 USD per year
9	International Labour Organization	Testing the addition of labour migration questions to the national labour force survey of the Republic of Armenia	2006-2007	13 800 USD
10	Armenia Health Project Implementation Unit, Ministry of Health of RA	“Health System Modernization” ref. PHRD TF 053436 Japanese Grant Agreement “Opinion Surveys & Survey Field Work for the Evaluation of Health Sector Performance”	2007	19,017,000 AMD