Statistical Register as the Base for Statistical Surveys in Russia
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Arrangement of state statistical monitoring in the Russian Federation and formation of official statistical information is guided by the Statistical Register which is a multiply information system linking administrative data on economic agents and statistical survey data.

The Statistical Register is a system of statistical accounting of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs, who have obtained state registration according to the legislation of the Russian Federation and also entities of unincorporated status, subsidiaries and branch offices, representative offices and other separate subdivisions of legal entities conducting their business and operations in the territory of the Russian Federation according to the existing law.

The Government Statistics conduct the Statistical Register on the basis of data received from the administrations that carry out state registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs. All of Rosstat's regional bodies hold registers for their regions and data from all regional registers are integrated in the Federal Statistical Register.

The Rosstat Statistical Register is designed as a grouping of registers and statistical databases. It is composed of administrative record, statistical record, that is general population of statistical units, and it also includes statistical sub-registers of separate areas of statistics.

Legal entities and individual entrepreneurs are identified by the Russian classifications codes in the administrative record of the Register. In compliance with the Federal legislation on technical control, application of the codes is mandatory, when creating government information systems and resources.

The Rosstat Register is of administrative design and consequently it provides methodical basis for comparability and uniformity of different state information resources on economic agent recording (accounting).

The administrative record of the Register comprises names and identification codes of entities according to the Russian classifications of enterprises, member-territories, forms of ownership, forms of legal entity's incorporation, industries, economic activities, address data, registered capitals, data on owners and their shares, registration data, information on licenses etc.

The statistical record of the Register comprises data on main activity, type of enterprise (large, medium or small), some economic indicators, such as output, turnover, number of employees, and also data to define more precise statistical units by sampling method including. Variance patterns of the data are used to specify statistical units.

The Statistical Register is the basis for state statistical surveys in the Russian Federation and is used to specify statistical units.

As of April 1, 2005 the Rosstat Statistical Register covers 4,5 mn. entities, including 0,2 mn. separate subdivisions of legal entities (local entities) and 2,3 mn. individual entrepreneurs, who have obtained state registration.

Consequently to the enacted federal law "On State Registration of Legal Entities and Individual Entrepreneurs" and regulations to execute it, new procedures of state registration and statistical data communication to the Government Statistics on economic agents, who have obtained state registration, has been established.

The Tax Administration in collaboration with state non-budgetary funds and the Government Statistics are assigned, following a one-door-registration-procedure concept, to enforce the new legislation for state registration of legal entities from July 1, 2002 and individual entrepreneurs from January 1, 2005.

According to the procedure of state registration the Tax Administration of Russia record legal entities and individual entrepreneurs in the Uniform State Register of Legal Entities and in the Uniform State Register of Individual Entrepreneurs respectively.

Within five days after state registration of the economic agent, the regional body of the Tax Administration forwards electronic format data to the regional body of the Government Statistics in accordance with approved routine of administrative data exchange.

According to the one-door-registration-procedure the Tax Administration forwards relevant encrypted information by communication lines to the Government Statistics and state non-budget funds. In this case legal entities and individual entrepreneurs have no need to apply directly to the said establishments to be registered.

The administrative record of the Rosstat Statistical Register, that is formed and held according to the routine of administrative data exchange, based on one-door-registration-procedure concept, and data from the Tax Administration ensures full statistical coverage of legal entities registered in the Russian Federation, which results in enhancing reliability of the Statistical Register and statistical data resources developed on its basis.

Regional registers are updated daily and likewise data in the Federal Register is proceeded monthly.

Reliability of data in the Register and statistical output ultimately depend on quality of data from administrative sources, including the Tax Administration. Requirements for quality improvement of the data produced by the Government Statistics and other executive authorities in the process of administrative data exchange have consequently become topical.

Codes from the Russian Classification of Legal Entities, indicated by economic agents in a code part of the forms of state statistical monitoring, are employed to secure process of statistical reporting and development of integrated statistical data.

The Statistical authorities send round special Notification to legal entities and individual entrepreneurs, which obtained state registration, to inform them of their codes in the Russian Classification of Legal Entities.

A new Russian Classification of Economic Activities, harmonized with NACE (4 categories), to which 2 categories have been added to correspond distinctions of the Russian economy, is employed for the register from January 1, 2003. Data on economic agents activities that had been formally entered into the Register according to a national classification were recoded via the conversion key in compliance with the Russian Classification of Economic Activities.

Distinctive feature of the new state registration legislation is economic activities codes in the Russian Classification of Economic Activities, that forms part of data on state registration, which are defined by economic agents themselves. They also must indicate no less than a 3-symbol code for registration.

A certain inaccuracy of economic activity codes, indicated for   the state registration in the Russian Classification of Economic Activities, makes the Statistical Administration specify actual main economic activity by means of employment of statistical monitoring data and introduction into statistical part of the Register data supporting "stability conception".

Works on application of the Rosstat Methodical Recommendations on specification of main economic activity of legal entities have been commenced in 2005. That will improve quality and reliability of data in the Statistical Register employed for statistical monitoring.

The Government Statistics receive from administrative sources and enter into the Statistical Register data on public sector of economy, licenses, natural monopolies

etc. The data are employed to developed official statistical information on a certain number of entities.

Under new economic tendencies emerged and globalization development, requirements for quality and reliability of official statistical information have increased. One of the solution to the problem is improvement of information part of the Register by reflecting in it different types of statistical units, their attributes and characteristics

In 2004, data received from annual structural establishment survey was formed into section "Local units", which covers separate subdivisions of legal entities, and added to the Statistical Register.

The Statistical Register serves to carry out statistical monitoring and it is used as a basis for conducting statistical surveys and censuses, which are assigned to Rosstat by the Government of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation Government has delivered a decree on conducting agricultural census as of November 10, 2003 № 1626-R. We learn, from the international experience and practice of censuses of the kind, that a statistical register, that comprises economic agents engaged in agricultural production, should be used as a framework for the survey.

In the framework of a prospective economic census, a total survey of individual entrepreneurs is designed.

Aggregated data on number of economic agents, which obtained state registration, developed on the basis of the Statistical Register, is disseminated wide around consumers as a quantitative market description of prospective manufacturers. The said information developed about Russia in the whole and constituents of the Russian Federation in terms of types of economic activities, forms of ownership and forms of legal entity's incorporation, used for reports, statistical reference books and other official publications of Rosstat.

Since 2004 Rosstat has been carrying out works on improvement technique for development, conduction and employment of the Statistical Register. For the purpose the Government Statistics create a united information system "Integrated System of Registers" to secure conduction of the Statistical Register on a absolutely new technique basis. The united information system, being created now, is aimed to accomplish the following tasks:

- to arrange efficient administrative relations on one-door-registration-procedure concept to receive data on state registration of economic agents, that forms databases of state statistical monitoring;
- to arrange efficiently statistical information resources of economic agent statistical recording and to facilitate information interoperability of the Statistical Register, statistical databases and sub-registers;
- to introduce a unified technique of coherent/coordinated conduction, information interoperability and dissemination data of the Rosstat The Statistical Register;
- to create data bulk on enterprise demography to provide background of the unit etc.

The Integrated System of Registers is designed to be adopted in full scale in July 2005.