

profile on

Economic Census of Vietnam

1. History;

In Vietnam the Economic Census were conducted two times by the General Statistics Office (1995 & 2002). The Census investigated the activities of both establishments and enterprises in the whole country.

The first and the second Census were conducted under the decisions of Prime Minister.

By the Statistical Law (issued 2003) the Economics Census will be conducted for every five years, it means that the next Census will be conducted in the 2007.

In this paper the brief of Economic Census 2002 is presented

2. The objectives of Economic Census 2002:

- To make a list of economic units that can be used as the main sampling frame for various surveys
- To reveal the dissemination of the establishments (place of business) by administrative units such as commune, district, province, and region and by industry, employment size etc, for various policies of national and local Governments.
- To provide fundamental data on establishments in all provinces of the country

3. The coverage

The Census covered all establishments in Vietnam however excluded some kind of establishments as below:

- Individual proprietorship establishments in Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery
- Foreign Governments and International Agencies
- Establishments closed temporarily on the date of the Census by

Any reason such as seasonal time,
reconstruction...

4. Enumeration units

- Establishment having one fixed location and being operated at least 3 months continuously or periodically under single management.
 - Of which Establishment is a institutional unit engaged in one or predominantly one kind of economic activity (production, service, administrative management and public service)
- In other word, enumeration unit is a store, an office, a factory, a hotel, a bank, a school, a temple.... (Including headquarter and branch)

5. The survey items

- Items on the establishment :

There are 3 main groups of items:

1. Group of items on identification of an establishment (name, fax, email, telephone number, address, type of legal organization, some information on employer, kind of business activities, turnover ...)
2. Group of items on employment (number of persons engaged and their education levels, sex)
3. Group of items on IT application (number of computers, website, LAN, internet used, number of persons used computers for their work)

- Items on the enterprise:

Beside 3 groups above, there were some other items such as:

- Foundation year, number of branches,
- Group of items on the result of operation and financial results of enterprises (turnover, revenue, expenditure, capital, and asset, tax paid, contributing for state budget...) by industry

All items above were put in 4 kinds of questionnaires:

1. Questionnaire for enterprise;
2. Questionnaire for branches ;
3. Questionnaire for non-profit establishment;
4. Questionnaire for individual business establishment.

6. Date of Census

The Census was taken as of : 1 July 2002

7. Method of survey

In general the enumeration units were divided into two groups. Group 1 consisted of those which have a statistical reporting and accounting system, and group 2 consisted of those which do not have a statistical reporting and accounting system. So that two methods of data collection were used.

For group 1: a self-completed was used for enumeration. It means that the questionnaires were distributed to establishments by sending by post or visiting by enumerators, and questionnaires were filled by the establishments.

For group 2: an interview method was used.

8. Publications and released:

- For Economic Census 2002, the prompt result was released in the November 2002
- The content of the prompt result contained the data on the number of all establishments, the persons engaged by sex, by industry, by provinces.
- The final result was released in February 2004. It was compiled in three volumes:

Volume 1: Results of Establishment Census of Vietnam 2002-General result.

It contained general information on all establishments with the detailed tables on number of establishments, number of employees by type of organization, economic activity, scale and training education or levels of professional; the distribution of establishments and labour by region, province, city over the country.

Additionally it included information on the IT application such as number of computers had been using, number of the persons using computer for their work, number of establishments using internet, e-commerce, websites

Volume 2: Results of Establishment Census of Vietnam- Business Establishments. It contains the tables with the information on the establishments such as enterprises and their branches; individual business units owned by one person or household

Volume 3: Results of Establishment Census of Vietnam- Non profit Establishments. It contains the tables with the information on the establishments such as office, school, hospital, research institute, temple, ..

In order to make easy for users, the General Statistics Office has published CD-ROMs which storing full content of the three above volumes. These products were provided to the policy makers, researchers and other users in the central and local provinces.

Now establishment data were also stored in the database of GSO in order to serve more detailed requirements of the users

9. Some limitations of Economic Census 2002

- To get too much information through the Census to produce various intergrated statistics, so that the quality of the results of the Census tended to deteriorate.
- The coverage and questionnaires of the Censuses 1995 and 2002 were different so that it was difficult for comparing the data beetwen them
- There were some problems with the identification of special cases such as the economic activities without fix places (such as retail sellers in streets, indiviual construction business, individual transportation business,)

- The small establishments often moved and changed very fast so that it is difficult to map survey areas and to build data base of establishments
- The introduction of the result of Census was a big weakness so that exploring detail data of the Census were limited
- The time for preparing the Census was too short and the resources of persons and budget for the Census were limited and the experiences on the Economic Census was very poor

10. Conclusions

Economic Census is a big and important kind of survey in statistics. It was conducted many times in the developed countries (likes Japan) but in the Vietnam it was only conducted two times. So that it is very useful for Vietnam to be participated in this workshop. We hope to learn more experiences from other countries and to find the answers for some problems on this Census.

At the same time we would like to take this opportunity to thank UNSD and other related persons for providing the effective assistance to GSO of Vietnam.