

China Country Report

China determined to reform and perfect its census system because the SAS (severe acute respiratory) epidemic had greatly impacted the service industry in the year. In 2003, approved by the State Council, the National Bureau of Statistics, National Development & Reform Commission and Ministry of Finance conducted a joint research and decided to make important adjustments to the scope of national censuses and their periodical arrangement. The tertiary industry census originally scheduled in 2003 was postponed and integrated it with the industrial census scheduled in 2005 and the census of basic units scheduled in 2006. The first national economic census was scheduled to be undertaken in 2004 that brought the construction into the census scope. The National Economic Census Regulations were particularly enacted by the Chinese government in accordance with the Statistics Law of PRC. Thus, the national economic census should be undertaken twice every 10 years and in years ending in 3 and 8.

The purpose of undertaking economic censuses is to collect the information on the second and tertiary industries in terms of their development scale, structure and economic benefit, establish and perfect the business register and database system, lay a solid foundation for research and formulation of the national economic and social development plan and for improving decision-making and management. It will play an important role in reforming the statistical system, perfecting the national economic accounting system and perfecting the statistical monitoring, warning and forecasting system.

Respondents in national economic census include corporate units, establishments and self-employed enterprises of the second and tertiary industries in China. The census scope covers 19 national economic sectors except agriculture, which are classified into 90 major groups, 378 groups and 875 small groups.

The method of complete enumeration is used in the national economic census. In other words, respondents would be surveyed one by one by the enumerators. However, due to the large number of self-employed enterprises and the different situations in different regions, sample survey could be also used in parts of regions so as to reduce the workload and improve the data quality.

The census contents cover the basic characteristics of units, the number and composition of employees, assets and other financial situations, business situations, product output, main raw materials and energy consumption and technical activities. 16 statistical classification standards and catalogues will be applied in the census so as to ensure the unification and comparability of the census data. The Classification of National economic Sectors and Their Codes worked out by the National Bureau of

Statistics of China is basically consistent with the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities edited by U.N. Statistics Division (revised in 1989, the third version, for short: ISIC/Rev. 3).

Establishing and perfecting the business register is the main task of Economic census. It is very important and useful for government economic supervision, science research and statistical survey. Revising the historical data should be conducted on the basis of the examined and verified economic census data. It is not to revise history, but to reflect the economic and social development more objectively and accurately and reveal the real features in history. Establishing and perfecting the system of the statistical survey of the tertiary industry is to reflect the real level of china tertiary industry. Research institutes and colleges will be organized to conduct researches on major subjects by way of inviting tenders. In addition, detailed information will be provided for the formulation of the 5th national five - year plan; In-depth research will also be conducted on Chinese economic situation; the census data will be provided according to the requirements of the general public, especially the requirements of industrial and commercial enterprises. At the same time, integrating the Chinese economic census data with electronic geographic information will be established to China economic geographic information system.

The Leading Group of the National Economic Census under the State Council will be set up with Vice premier of the State Council, as the leader of the leading group and the deputy secretary-general of the State Council as well as chief officers from NBS, National Development and Reform Commission, the Propaganda Department, the State Commission Office for Public Sector Reform, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Taxation, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce as members of the leading group. The Leading Group is responsible for organizing and implementing the economic census in an all-round way. The Office of the Leading Group of the National Economic Census under the State Council would be set up in the National Bureau of Statistics of China in charge of the day-to-day work of organizing and coordination of economic census. Corresponding leading groups of economic census and their offices at local government level will be set up in charge of organizing and coordination of economic census at local levels.

According to the National Economic Census Regulations, the expenses of economic census undertaking should be shared by the central and local governments at different levels, and should be listed into annual government budgets. In order to convey and spread information about the economic census undertaking and especially to make all corporate units, establishments and self-employed enterprises in the second and tertiary

industries fully aware of the importance of the economic census and actively participating in the census and well cooperating with the enumerators, economic census agencies and departments of propaganda at different levels fully utilized medias like newspaper, radio, TV, internet and outdoor advertising to carry out the propaganda and mobilization great in strength and impetus and to spread the knowledge about economic census.

In accordance with the principle of being scientific and feasible in line with China's practical situations, the comprehensive pilot censuses in some selected areas would be carried out. Meanwhile, a comprehensive training of the enumerators and supervisors would be organized level by level. Selecting staff and providing proper training are recruited from society or temporarily transferred from departments within statistical system or other concerned departments so as to form a strong contingent of census enumerators and supervisors. Before filling in census questionnaires, grassroots census agencies should enumerate units one by one in census districts according to the business register and registration data provided by relevant local departments so as to form comprehensive and systematic business register data and lay a solid foundation for census registration; The respondent rate of the census questionnaires is almost as high as 100%.

In the light of the practical situations of data processing equipment and skill level of staff in local economic census agencies, Census agencies at various levels of government implement unified data processing procedures and operational standards, tabulate the census questionnaires directly from the grassroots units, and report economic census data to higher authorities in accordance with the requirements such as unified timetable and data format.

Because the national economic census doesn't include the agricultural part, NBS has set up a research project on reforming the current system of census. We have asked some provincial bureau for reforming national census system, owing to the agriculture census is not conducted in the same year with the economic census, maybe some content of agricultural census will be added up into the future economic census. Anyway, the agricultural census may be cancelled or changed. Meanwhile, China will develop electronic report for big enterprises to fill in the questionnaire to reduce the burden. Meanwhile, China will also make full use of the administrative data in national economic census.