# Preliminary plan on reform of the statistical survey system after the first national economic census

## National Bureau of Statistics

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The State Council of China put forward to adjust the national census period and the survey items according to the Notice on Developing the First National Economic Census in 2003 and decided to develop the first national economic census. The adjustment revealed the sharp demand driven by the soaring economic development of China to transform the former statistical survey system. It is also a strategic adjustment to the statistical work as the adjustment identifies the basic status of census in the statistical survey system in the new century.

The first economic census has been developed smoothly since starting in latter part of 2003. I would like to bring forward and discuss with all of you the next step of the national statistical system on how to improve the system of survey method and survey manner through analyzing the situation after the economic census.

**？？ The present situation on regular survey of the secondary industry and the tertiary industry**

Since the implementation of the reform and opening-up system, the fast development of the China's economy and the society as well as the further improvement of the national economic accounting system raises the demands of all fields on the secondary industry and tertiary industry. To meet such demand, National Bureau of Statistics has done much in the two industries recently and established 23 statistical survey items in 5 aspects.

**I)     Survey items on the industrial enterprises**

a？ Survey on the large-scale industrial enterprises. The survey covers all the state-owned enterprises and the non-state-owned enterprises with the annual sale income of more than RMB5,000,000. We conduct total survey on these enterprises monthly and annually.

b？ Survey on the medium and small industrial enterprises. The survey covers all the non-state-owned enterprises with the annual sale income of less than RMB5,000,000. We conduct sample survey on them quarterly and annually.

c？ Survey on the main products and production of the industrial enterprises. The survey covers all industrial enterprises. We conduct sample survey on them annually.

d？ Survey on 5,000 online direct reporting industrial enterprises. The survey covers 5,000 large scale industrial enterprises. We conduct total survey on these enterprises

monthly and annually.

e？Survey on energy purchase, consumption and inventory of the industrial enterprises.

The survey covers all the state-owned enterprises and non-state-owned enterprises with annual sale income of more than RMB5,000,000. We conduct total survey on them monthly and annually.

f？ Survey on the technological activities of large and medium-size industrial enterprises. The survey covers all the large and medium-size industrial enterprises. We conduct total survey on them annually.

g？ Survey on the prices of the industrial products. The survey covers all the industrial enterprises. We conduct sample survey on them monthly.

**II). Survey items on architecture enterprises**

a？ Survey on architecture enterprises. The survey covers all the architecture enterprises issued with architecture qualification. We conduct total survey them monthly and annually.

b？ Survey on the price of the fixed asset investment. The survey covers the architecture enterprises. We conduct sample survey on them quarterly.

**III). Survey items on the enterprises engaged in wholesale and retail, hotel and catering.**

a？ Survey on the exceeding-quota enterprises in wholesale and retail, hotel and catering. The survey covers all the exceeding-quota enterprises in wholesale, retail, hotel and catering by the number of the employees and sale revenue. We conduct total survey on them monthly, quarterly and annually.

b？ Survey on the enterprises in wholesale and retail, hotel and catering under the quota. The survey covers all enterprises in wholesale, retail, hotel and catering by the number of the employees and sale revenue under the quota We conduct sample survey on them monthly and annually.

c？ Survey on price of the circulation and consumption. The survey covers the enterprises engaged in wholesale and retail, hotel and catering. We conduct sample survey on them monthly.

**IV) Survey item on the real estate enterprises**

a？ Survey on the real estate enterprises. The survey covers all the real estate

development enterprises. We conduct sample survey on them monthly.

b? Survey on 3,000 real estate enterprises directly reporting records online. The survey covers the 3,000 key real estate development enterprises. We conduct sample survey on them monthly and annually.

c? Survey on price of real estate. The survey covers all the real estate enterprises. We conduct sample survey on them quarterly.

## V). Surveyitems on the enterprise of all sectors

a? Survey on the enterprise input and output structure. The survey covers the units of all national economy sectors. We conduct sample survey on them every five years with single numbers of 2 and 7.

b? Survey on the other fixed assets investments. The survey covers all the enterprises engaged in all other investment activities than the basic construction investment. We conduct total survey on them monthly.

c? Survey on the high-tech enterprises. The survey covers all exceeding-normal scale industrial enterprises and software enterprises. We conduct total survey on them annually.

d? Survey on technological activities of enterprises. The survey covers all the enterprises. We conduct sample survey on them annually.

e? Survey on the situation of the enterprises. The survey covers all the enterprises. We conduct sample survey on them annually and quarterly.

f? Survey on group enterprise. The survey covers all the group enterprises. We conduct total survey on them quarterly and annually.

g? Survey on the key enterprises. The survey covers all the national key enterprises. We conduct sample survey on them semi-annually and annually.

h? Survey on the prosperity of the enterprises. The survey covers all the enterprises. We conduct sample survey on them semi-annually and annually.

## II. Main problems on the secondary and tertiary industries surveys

After many years of construction, a large statistic and investigation system has been formed in the statistic department of Chinese government, which lays the solid foundation for the macro-control, industrial management and national economic accounting of the state. Due to the complexity of the social economic development and unpredictability, coupled with lack of the long-term comprehensive design in the

statistical management work, the survey system also contains some investigation systems, which are repeated and contradicted. The repetition and contradiction of the system are represented as follows:

**I) the unreasonableness of the deployment of the secondary and tertiary industries results in the excess burden of the enterprises in some fields.**

The above-mentioned 23 survey items cover 14 industrial items, 10 architecture and wholesaling and retailing sectors and 11 real estate items. We can learn form this that the survey items are primarily applied in 7 sectors of industry, architecture, wholesaling, retailing, accommodation, food and beverage and real estate. And most of the enterprises surveyed are large and medium ones, all of which should submit the monthly, quarter and annual reports, therefore having a heavy statistical burden.

**II). Since the respondents become more and more large and less cooperated in the census, and the survey system is weak in resisting the interference, quality of the data we get is unsatisfying.**

Of all the 23 enterprise survey items, 12 items are adopted the total survey to collect data. All those enterprise survey items adopted the total survey covers the sectors with the numbers of the enterprises ranging from 1,000 to hundreds of thousand to millions. The large industrial enterprises surveyed may amount to 290,000 after the census, the industrial enterprises investigated in the products and production amount to 1,400,000 and the enterprises surveyed in the labors and salary amount to 3,000,000. On the one hand, many of them have no special statistical personals, as the enterprises cut down the employees to increase the efficiency currently, on the other hand, the government put a higher requirement on them, requiring them to have comprehensive statistical quality and capacity. Moreover, the various government departments require an enterprise to fill out and submit tens of sets of report forms, which have the similar contents. All of these factors contribute to the poor quality of the statistical data from the grassroots enterprises which can do nothing but deal with these extra burdens at discretion.

**III). the foundation on service survey system is weak. Of the 23 enterprise survey items, the survey on the service sector has the weak basis. As there are no consolidated methods and standards set for the service statistics, there are not enough foundation in economic analysis, micro-control and national economic accounting.**

**IV). Reform on the statistical survey system is paradoxical with the present management system.**

To meet the need of the growing socialistic market economy, the sample survey has been popularized in the government statistical system over these years. However, since the demand of the governments at various levels for statistical data in the economic management is different, this requires that the sample survey of the statistical departments at various levels have representative. It increases the burdens of the grassroots and the sample survey costs them more.

**？？The first economic census lays the foundation for the regular survey of the secondary and tertiary industries**

The first national economic census is the integration of the monomial surveys made in the past years. Such national economic census will be conducted every five years. We must take into account the data and means of investigation in the census year as the basis and benchmark, considering that the state puts substantial money and goods in mobilizing 10,000,000 census surveyors to conduct the economic census, which allows us to get the overall data that is relatively detailed and complete and unable to obtain in the non-census year. We should revise and adjust the historical data, taking the data in census year as benchmark. On the one hand, we should take the principles and standards adopted in census as basis and try our best to apply them to the annual report made in non-census year. On the other hand, we should adopt the sample survey in the non-census year as much as possible, focusing on calculating the speed of development. Then we reckon the absolute number of the non-census year on the basis of the absolute number of the census year. In this way, we can get statistical data which is more accurate and the data of the census year are coherent to those of the regular survey.

**The first national economic census lays the foundation and provides experience for the reform of the conventional survey on the secondary and tertiary industries.**

Firstly, we make a uniform census schemes in the census year and establish the Business Register. Due to the historical reason, much is considered from the professional angle in the survey in normal year. Since the first economic census should take into account the basic demands in various aspects, and the investigation system of the census should be regarded as the basic investigation system of the state. It requires the uniform design scheme, participation of the relevant statistical departments and adoption of a series of statistical classification and standards. We should establish the Business Register which will lay the foundation for the sampling investigation and part of the total survey in the future.

Secondly, we make various survey contents for various respondents. We design a set of questionnaire according to each enterprise type which meet the various demands and avoid repetition in the content.

Thirdly, we conduct the data processing by the industries. The NBS provides the data processing software not only taking the different professional demands into consideration but also unifying the standards and procedures, which lays the solid foundation for building the comprehensive statistical database.

**IV. Plan on reform of the statistical survey system after the first national economic census**
**I). Enhance the uniform design capacity of the survey in the secondary and tertiary industries.**

For the first of all, we will use the first economic census data to build the enterprise

information database which can meet the demand of survey designed for the secondary and tertiary industries. secondly, we will train the survey designers theoretically and practically. It is an overall training rather than a profession-focus one. Thirdly, we will introduce some overall survey design and computer software which is relatively mature in foreign countries and equip them with relevant hardware. Fourthly, combining the work mode of the economic census, we will integrate the survey items of the secondary and tertiary industries and solve the problem of repetition and contradiction. The statistical personal should consider the issues from building the modern market economic statistical survey system so as to improve the data. quality

## II). Develop and perfect the national survey system of secondary and tertiary industries on the basis of economic census.

The statistical survey system of the secondary and tertiary industries is degined in the non-census year, taking the census year system and data as the benchmark. The statistical data and contents in the census year should be relatively complete. In the non-census years, the sample survey will be adopted primarily. We will reckon on the basis of absolute volume in the census year.

## III). Replace the division method by scale and quota with the division standard by large and medium-size enterprise gradually and enlarge the enterprises number of the directly reporting.

Take the industry as example, with the development of the national economy, the scale of the enterprises become large and the number of the enterprises above the scale is growing. Forced by the factors of less statistical personals in the grassroots and the heavy burden on them, some coastal regions put forward to raise the standards defining the above-scale enterprises, otherwise they could do nothing but tire of dealing with this task and even reduce the number of such enterprises purposely. The adoption of the division standard of large and medium enterprises and the implementation of the direct reporting both can diminish the number of the enterprises who should submit the report forms regularly and enhance the capacity of resisting interference. The statistical personals in the grassroots and the governmental statistical departments therefore can focus their energy on the direct reporting and sample survey, which lays the solid foundation for improving the quality of the statistical data.

### IV) Set up the service survey system gradually

Service sector is an integral part of the national economy, but the service statistics and accounting is the weakness in the statistical work. It does not mean to develop a complete service survey system. It means to collect the data of some of the service enterprises by the sample survey and calculate the data of other service enterprises primarily by administrative records in the non-census years on the basis of data of the census years. Some professions, especially the national accounting need the economic census data, particularly the service sector data. National Bureau of Statistics has decided to organize the service statistics center to conduct key service survey. The

center should conduct the sample survey quarterly and annually for the growth rate and the main structure of service enterprises, then make calculation combining with basic data in the economic census.

In my opinion, how to well design the statistical survey system and obtain the high quality data with less input to meet the need of the national economic accounting and national macro-control under the condition of the market economy is the key subject at present.