



Rosstat's organizational structure



Ministry of Economic Development of Russia (since 2017)



Rosstat



85 Rosstat's regional offices across the country

Which information is produced by Rosstat:

- ✓ weekly average prices
- ✓ monthly average prices
- ✓ CPI in national classification
- ✓ CPI in COICOP classification
- ✓ Other indicators to be produced on the basis of average price data

Consumer price statistics in Russia



COVERAGE OF OBSERVATION



509 types of goods and services are included in a set for calculation of average prices and CPI



observation covers 68 300 objects of trade and services



more than 668 K individual prices are registered monthly



price information is collected by 1200 registrars across the country

2 types of observations:

- weekly (average prices only)
- monthly (average prices and price index)

Deadline for collection of price information:

- for weekly observation - Monday
- for monthly – 21-25th day

Deadline for information publishing:

- for weekly observation - Wednesday
- for monthly – 6th day of a month following the reporting month

CPI is calculated by four types at once:

- in % to the previous month
- in % to December of the previous year
- in % to the relevant month of the previous year
- a period from start of the year in % to the relevant period of the previous year



- refinement of a list of goods and services for which an observation of consumer prices is conducted annually on the basis of preferences of the population
- updating of weighs for calculating CPI is performed annually at the beginning of the year

Processing system for consumer price data

Rosstat actively uses and constantly improves the paperless technology of price data collection through the mobile terminals for data collection since 1991

Since 2014, Rosstat has successfully transferred to the third generation of mobile devices for price data collection together with the beginning of the use of Russia brand new software system for data processing.

Price data processing system

Rosstat server software component



Access is through a special web-site from anywhere in the world where there is Internet (thin client)



Mobile device



Any Android-based OS is appropriate, i.e. there is no problem with selection of a replacing device



Customized SW for price collection and communication has to be installed

Interaction pattern of system levels

City level



Mobile Internet



Database

Central server



http



Client

http

Regional level



Client

In over four years of operation of a new software environment for collection and processing of consumer price data, Rosstat has such positive experiences as:

- all initial information about prices is received from mobile devices to one central server in Moscow on-line
- aggregated data of all levels are produced on the central server
- users of city and regional levels need not to administer the system, since the whole software backplane of the system is on the server and maintained centrally by the system administrator
- system updates are also released centrally and available to all users at the same time
- users at the federal level have a priority access to data of all levels



Rosstat's steps to searching for alternative data sources for consumer price statistics

For several years, Rosstat has been negotiating with various owners of data sources on prices (both in business and government) on the possible use of their information for the purposes of Russian consumer price statistics

Negotiations with the business representatives – retail companies

Interest for Rosstat

- ✓ obtaining information about the prices for goods directly from a company that sells directly to the public. In general, such retailers have a wide network of stores located in most regions of the country. Access to the database of their trade networks was free for Rosstat, the real prospect of using a huge array of price information for the purposes of consumer price statistics



Output

Legislation of Russia does not oblige retailers to provide the government agencies with an access to their databases. This information is carefully protected by retailers and represents a trade secret for them. Negotiations with representatives of some retail companies have not led to a positive output for Rosstat. Given that Russia has more than 100 different trade networks (both federal and regional), it is not possible to reach an agreement with each of them today.



Rosstat's steps to searching for alternative data sources for consumer price statistics (continuance)

Negotiations with the government agencies

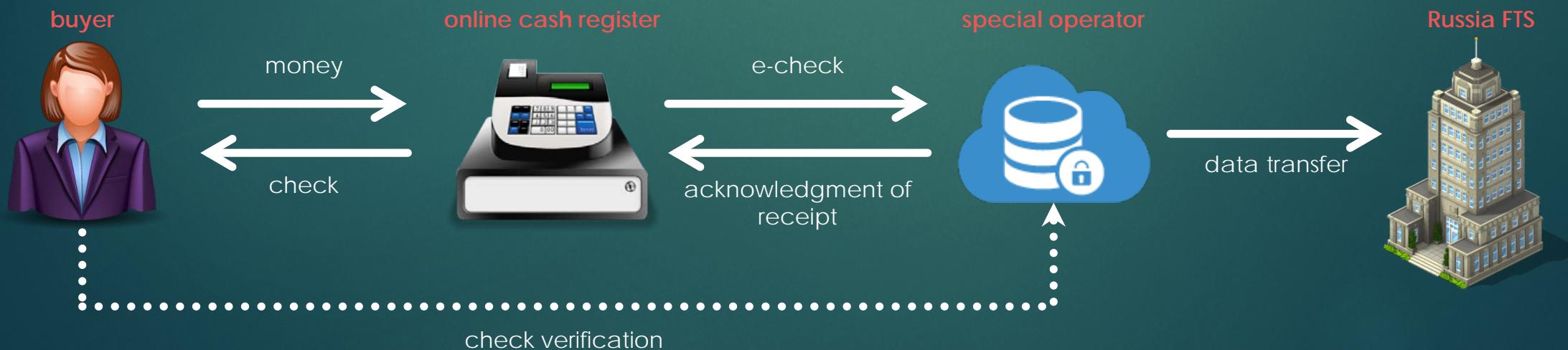
Federal Tax Service (Russia FTS)

Interest for Rosstat

✓ In 2017, the Russia FTS implemented a large-scale project, according to which almost all organizations that carry out commodity-money relations (with the exception of certain categories of trade organizations) throughout the country, should switch from traditional cash registers to so-called online cash registers. The system transfers data from cash register online via the Internet to the tax authority under a certain scheme - not directly, but through special operators. When implementing this project, the FTS, of course, pursued its own interests – monitoring of cash assets turnover in an automated mode. Availability of certain information about the goods in the e-check, including a price for this product, was considered by Rosstat as a possible alternative source of information on consumer prices.

Output

Throughout 2017, Rosstat have conducted a number of negotiations with the Russia FTS on the possible obtaining of data on prices for goods, transferred from online cash registers. The main problem is that Russia does not have a single principle for coding goods, as well as the uniform requirements for describing goods in a check. Sellers enter information about the goods in their databases themselves. Currently, Russia has implemented a system of mandatory coding only for certain types of goods: furs, alcohol and medicines. In other cases, there is a situation where an inadequate description of goods does not allow identifying two identical goods. Solution on an establishment of common principles for coding of goods and an establishment in Russia of a register of all goods sold in the retail market is currently being studied by the Government of the Russian Federation. For the moment, a prospect of the possible use of data by Rosstat from online cash registers is temporarily postponed.



Rosstat's steps to searching for alternative data sources for consumer price statistics (continuance)

Negotiations with the government agencies

Federal Service for Surveillance in Healthcare (Roszdravnadzor)

Interest for Rosstat

- ✓ Since 2009, Roszdravnadzor has been monitoring consumer prices and an assortment of medicines in medical and pharmacy organizations. Such monitoring is performed every month. Data on prices for medicines collected by Roszdravnadzor are of some interest to Rosstat and are considered as a promising option for replacing the traditional method of obtaining data on prices for medicines (data collection by interviewers) for data to be collected and processed by Roszdravnadzor.



Output

During 2017-2018, a number of negotiations were held between the departments on the use of Roszdravnadzor data on prices for medicines for calculating of the average consumer prices and the consumer price index for medicines by Rosstat. To date, a certain agreement has been reached between the departments. The rules for exchange of data between the two departments have been developed. In the near future, Rosstat will receive from Roszdravnadzor the first set of price data for study and during 2018 will study this information. If Rosstat considers Roszdravnadzor's data representative and relevant to Rosstat's official methodology, then these data can be used to produce official statistics on prices and consumer price indices in the future.