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**BEST PRACTICES FOR PUBLICATION, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER  
STATISTICAL USE OF BUSINESS REGISTER DATA**

**Development of statistical register outputs in support of specific  
government policy decisions**

**Report of the Republic of Tajikistan**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. An important task of the statistics system is to collect data from statistical units which constitute a basis for describing general economic trends; such information is also used to characterize indicators of production, income, distribution, consumption, resource conservation, capital formation, employment and so forth.
2. The transition to a market economy, which has been accompanied by the denationalization of State property, and the acquisition by natural and legal persons of the possibility of engaging in economic activity have paved the way for a rapid increase in the number of statistical units. In these conditions, the tasks of the statistics system have become unusually complicated, with the quantity of statistical units observed subject to significant and continuous change.
3. The need to establish a Business Register was occasioned by the changes under way in the country's economy, the appearance of new types of statistical unit and the expansion in the scope of private sector activity.

4. International experience has shown that statistical registers represent the most effective tool for organizing and coordinating statistical observation.

5. Statistical registers are a cornerstone of statistics and are intended for:

- (a) Establishment of statistical units;
- (b) Preparation and coordination of surveys;
- (c) Statistical analysis of the enterprise population and its demography;
- (d) Collection of data from administrative sources; and
- (e) Data dissemination.

## **II. THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER**

6. In order to regulate the mechanism for observing the activities of statistical units, systematize the daily increasing quantity of data and provide a basis for conducting statistical observation, in 1991 the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a decision establishing a register of enterprises and organizations in Tajikistan.

7. In the light of the political events which took place in the Republic between 1992 and 1997, some problems arose with the development of the register.

8. However, since 1998 a new school of thought has emerged regarding the building, organization and use of the register. The register has been elaborated with a view to the strengthening of its role, not only in the provision of information and the analysis of statistical data but also in the central direction and organization of statistical observation. The register has become the basis for constituting various populations of subjects for the conduct of statistical surveys and observation.

9. To this end, steps have been taken to set up a new register. Since 1 January 1999, all economic entities have been reregistered, marking the beginning of a new phase in the development of the register of enterprises and organizations.

10. The register is an integrated databank of statistical units located within Tajikistan, providing for coordination with automated departmental registers on the basis of the Common System for the Classification and Codification of Technical, Economic and Social Data and containing a prescribed list of statistical indicators related to the financial, economic and other activity of statistical units.

11. The purpose of establishing and maintaining the register is to accumulate reliable accounting and statistical data on statistical units covering the entire period of their existence and grouped according to a national classification system. This provides for the conduct of statistical observation, including the collection, processing and presentation of statistical data by sector and region, and also by form of ownership and organizational and legal type.

12. The reports of the Government of Tajikistan have started to include information on the number of registered statistical units by sector, form of ownership and organizational and legal type. In addition, sectoral directories have begun to be prepared on the basis of the register, with a view to conducting comprehensive and sample statistical observation.

13. Today, the register of enterprises and organizations is one of the most important and effective tools in the statistics system, enabling the recording and identification by the State of entities which are engaged in economic activity, have a significant impact on the economy and contribute to the creation of gross national product and gross domestic product.

14. The tasks of the register are as follows:

- (a) To provide an annual list from which to compile indexes of respondents' addresses;
- (b) To allow directories to be prepared for the conduct of statistical surveys;
- (c) To serve as a basis for extrapolating the results of sample surveys to the entire enterprise population;
- (d) To generate reports containing summary data on the number of registered statistical units;
- (e) To generate on request lists of corporations, individual concerns, branches and offices with particular attributes;
- (f) To serve as a basis for establishing the economic demographics of enterprises;
- (g) To produce normative-reference information for electronic statistical-data-processing systems;
- (h) To facilitate the analysis and presentation of necessary statistical data on the number and type of economic entities established, operational or ceasing to trade over various time periods;
- (i) To make information available to government and local government authorities and other categories of user.

15. One of the most important elements of State efforts to ensure the effective development of market infrastructure is the application of the "Single Window" principle to facilitate the registration and recording of new economic entities.

16. To this end, a new law on State registration of corporations and individual concerns was adopted on 1 July 2009, under which registration is effected by the tax authorities. Pursuant to the law, when businesses are listed in the Single State Register, they are simultaneously registered online with the tax authorities and the State statistics and social insurance agencies.

17. Information from the Single State Register regarding corporations and individual concerns registered with the State is transmitted to the statistics agencies electronically in XML format each day.

18. The introduction of the “Single Window” principle has enabled close cooperation to be established with the registration authorities. The use of a single registration number makes it possible to compare data from the statistical register with data from the register of taxpayers and from the database of the social insurance fund.

### **III. THE STATISTICAL REGISTER**

19. The statistical register is prepared on the basis of the administrative data contained in the register of enterprises and organizations and data on the results of these entities’ economic activity. It constitutes an up-to-date list of statistical units which were actually engaged in economic activity during the reporting period and for which structured data are available. The existence of such information allows separate lists of subjects for statistical observation to be selected and compiled with a view to the collection and processing of statistical data for each approved, unified type of statistical reporting documentation.

20. The purpose of establishing the statistical register is to create an integrated software product and end-to-end statistical-data-collection and -processing technology, which reflect common organizational and methodological principles and are compatible with the software environment in State statistics at the national and regional levels.

21. The following statistical units constitute the information units in the statistical register:

- (a) Enterprise;
- (b) Local unit;
- (c) Kind-of-activity unit;
- (d) Local kind-of-activity unit;
- (e) Enterprise group.

22. The tasks of the statistical register are as follows:

(a) To establish standard descriptions for all types of economic entity, including large, medium-sized and small enterprises and organizations subject to statistical observation, with a view to obtaining quantitative and qualitative characteristics for each statistical unit in the register;

(b) To define a single set of reporting economic entities, in accordance with common methodology;

(c) To allow lists of statistical observation units to be compiled for the conduct of specific statistical surveys;

(d) To facilitate the use of statistical-data-collection and -processing technology with varying degrees of reporting unit coverage.

23. Since State statistical observation must be conducted annually taking into account the nature of statistical surveys of defined sets of reporting entities, the State statistical agencies prepare, for each reporting year, a snapshot of the statistical register. This snapshot represents the situation as at the beginning of the reporting year and incorporates various economic indicators (average number of employees, receipts from the sale of goods, produce, labour and services minus value added tax, excise duty and similar payments, and output of goods and services).

24. In addition to the information contained in the register of enterprises and organizations, the statistical register includes the following supplementary data: type of enterprise; indication of whether a small enterprise has switched to the simplified system of recording and reporting and of whether a business has been privatized or belongs to the State sector; and economic indicators.

25. By comparing the statistical register with other departmental registers, it is possible not only to update the information contained in the register but also to make it more reliable and trustworthy.

#### **IV. USE OF STATISTICAL REGISTER DATA IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

26. The information contained in the statistical register is also widely used in developing the Government's strategic policies.

27. In order to improve living standards and pave the way for the country's future development, in 2005 the President of Tajikistan initiated work on the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period to 2015, which is intended to promote the systematic development of the country in the long term, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals.

28. Tajikistan's principal strategic document, the National Development Strategy defines the priorities and general thrust of government policy for achieving sustainable economic growth. It represents a fundamentally new approach to securing development, one that takes account of world experience in preparing and implementing similar strategies, of lessons learned and conclusions drawn at previous stages of the country's development, and of the prevailing realities and the prospects for development.

29. All current and prospective national, sectoral and regional development frameworks, strategies, policies and plans are based on the National Development Strategy, as is the work of all government bodies.

30. The Poverty Reduction Strategy for 2007-2009 was drawn up in the light of the National Development Strategy.

31. The former document constitutes a medium-term social and economic programme for the country's development. It contains specific actions, based on existing resources and additional needs, for carrying out institutional and economic reforms to achieve sustainable and significant economic growth and increase the scope and quality of social services.

32. These actions too are in keeping with the goals and priorities of the National Development Strategy. A major focus of both documents is private sector development and attraction of investment through the extension of economic freedoms, the strengthening of property rights and the rule of law, and the development of public-private partnerships.

33. The limited internal market and lack of foreign investment in the Republic have favoured an increase in the role of small and medium entrepreneurship in Tajikistan's economy. Accordingly, central aims of the National Development Strategy and Poverty Reduction Strategy are to develop this sector and attract investment.

34. The following tasks have been highlighted:

(a) Development of a new investment policy ensuring coordination and consistent implementation of effective measures to attract, support and increase the volume of direct foreign investment;

(b) Enhancement of the legislative framework for the establishment, operation and winding up of small and medium-sized enterprises;

(c) Review of existing norms with a view to strengthening property rights;

(d) Creation of conditions for improving the quality of the services offered by small and medium-sized enterprises;

(e) Reduction of administrative barriers;

(f) Provision of government support to microbusinesses and small businesses.

35. An expert on managing registers and classification systems from the State Statistical Committee participated in the elaboration of these strategic programmes.

36. The Committee plays a central role in implementing the programmes' data collection system, which ensures the timely collection, processing and dissemination of the main body of data on all indicators. The needs of the strategies are fully reflected in the Committee's workplan, which includes an item on measurement of the indicators necessary for proper evaluation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

37. The main source of information on small and medium entrepreneurship is the statistical register, data from which is used to analyse the activities of the relevant businesses.

38. The Committee cooperates closely in this area with the State Committee on Investments and Management of State Property. Each quarter, information is provided from the statistical register on all indicators relating to the activities of small and medium-sized enterprises.

39. In addition, interest has been shown in studying the investment climate in Tajikistan by certain international organizations, which work closely with the statistical agencies in carrying out their research.

40. For example, since 2003 the International Financial Corporation (IFC), an organization of the World Bank Group, has been operational in Tajikistan. IFC invests in the private sector, with a view to promoting a steady flow of private investment into developing countries, reducing poverty and improving living conditions.

41. IFC is monitoring the business environment by conducting regular surveys of small and medium-sized enterprises and collecting factual data from entrepreneurs in all regions of Tajikistan, as well as providing support to the Government in reforming legislative policy affecting this sector so as to create a business environment that encourages the development of entrepreneurial activity.

42. The first survey was undertaken in 2003, and further surveys followed in 2005 and 2007.

43. With the assistance of the Office of the President and the State Committee on Investments and Management of State Property, a comprehensive review was carried out of the system for issuing permits as a fundamental step towards legislative reform.

44. In analysing the surveys conducted, IFC uses data from the State Statistical Committee to ensure that the respondents include representatives of all kinds of activity and all regions of the Republic.

45. The selection criteria are as follows:

(a) Kind of activity (sector of the economy) in which the enterprises are engaged (operational);

(b) Region (province) in which the enterprises are located;

(c) Number of small and medium-sized enterprises recorded;

(d) Number of individual enterprises and small private farms per region;

(e) Number of small and medium-sized enterprises per region and per sector of the economy, and number of employees.

## **V. FURTHER MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE STATISTICAL REGISTER**

46. Given the trends in the development of market relations, Tajikistan's statistics system must, as a matter of urgency, develop a fundamentally new methodological approach to organizing the statistical recording of observation units.

47. In May 2010, the State Statistical Committee plans to carry out a census of economic entities; this will allow for the preparation of more reliable and up-to-date databases.

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