

**STATE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

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Republic of Azerbaijan dated
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**STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE STATE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN FOR 2014-2017**

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Introduction

“Strategic Plan of the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2014-2017” has been developed in the framework of the Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: Vision to the future”, the State Program “Improvement of official statistics in 2013-2017” and other concepts and plans of actions. The plan envisages implementation of strategically most crucial activities of the State Statistical Committee.

During recent years for the purpose to access official statistics on all branches of economy the Committee has developed appropriate official statistical reports, methodological instruction and guidelines, as well as program-methodological issues in order to process and obtain summary data. As the result, regular dispatch of periodical statistical data to governing bodies, central executive authorities, scientific and research institutions dealing with economy, mass media and general public has been provided.

The strategic plan has covered mission of the Committee for the defined period, review of organization and implementation of statistical works, approached and required valuables at the stage of implementation of works, the SSC’s aims, status, position and its benefits and feasibilities, development trends for near and far perspectives, international relations, main objectives, goals and activities, improvement of human capacity and education, development of methodology that is compliant with international standards in the field of statistics, modernization of the country economy for the purpose to provide macroeconomic stability, necessity to reflect adequately in official statistics the processes occurred in the public and etc. issues to be implemented for the nearest future.

Development, improvement and obtaining of reliable, timely and comparative statistical data production based on strategy for implementation of afore mentioned in 2014-2017 are envisaged. In this regard, as a main target is to implement below-mentioned:

- increasing of statistical data effectiveness, improvement of services provided for users and provision of development of institutional environment;
- preparation of indicators which reflect life quality, business globalization, environment stability, macro-economic stability, other economic and social phenomena in the framework of the Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: Vision to the future” taking into account rising demands on statistics;
- observation and analysis of social, economic, demographic, ecological and other changes, obtaining of quality statistical data enabling assessment of effectiveness in the result of formation and realization of several strategies;

- strengthening of relations with respondents and decreasing of statistical burden;
- quality management in the system of statistics and development of metadata system.

It is assumed that as a result of implementation of above mentioned better implementation of works in the state statistics system, development and realization of projects according to modern requirements would be achieved thanks to qualified specialists and young staffs.

1. Mission

Main mission of the State Statistical Committee is to meet managerial authorities, economic subjects, research workers and users' needs by provision of statistical information characterizing continuous development in the country, social-economic situation, scientific-technical development, mutual economic relations at regional and area level, structural changes and production effectiveness.

2. Review

Using given competencies with regard to sustainable development the State Statistical Committee should provide users with quality statistical information for more making of more proper decision on social development.

3. Valuables

3.1. Organizational valuables

Quality and dynamic – to direct duties of the State Statistical Committee (hereinafter referred as the Committee) to creation of unified statistical data system for provision of objectivity and comparability of statistical data according to international standards and evidence of summary statistical data, constant improvement of principles and methods used on collecting, processing, communicating and disseminating of data in the framework of legislation, application of the world advanced statistical traditions and scientific achievements in the field of official statistics;

Transparency and professional competence – to provide real reflection of the state of official statistics, impartial dissemination of data among users, selection of factors of a crucial importance for corresponding executive authorities, along with that, ensuring the correlation of costs to respondents' burden on the one part, and respect for citizens' rights as regard to access to user friendly data taking into account these privileges on the other part, to make decisions about methods and rules of

statistical data collection, processing, storage and presenting according to considerable professional opinion taking into account scientific principles and professional ethics for the purpose to keep confidence in statistics;

Confidentiality – irrespective of natural or legal entity the confidentiality of private data collected by statistical bodies for preparation of statistical information and use of them only for statistical purposes;

Legality – on implementation of duties and rights to follow the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on “Official statistics”, decrees and orders of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, international partnership agreements of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Statute on the State Statistical Committee;

International cooperation – to adhere to a principle that “bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of statistics assists to improvement of the systems of official statistics in the country” and conform statistics to international standards and provide international comparability of statistical information;

Public confidence – no to damage interests of natural and legal entities and support the realization of their interests within competencies according to business profile, present reports about implemented activities to the public and constantly justify and strengthen public confidence;

Efficient management – timely to prevent elements not necessary for current management and to take preventive measures in order to increase coefficient of performance.

3.2. Material valuables

Organization and carrying out of programs in order to provide official statistics quality and public trust in statistics, founds on accuracy, objectivity of statistical information, professional standards and ethics, accountability and relevance, prevention of misuse, sources of official statistics, confidentiality, legislation, national coordination, use of international standards, international cooperation principles;

Relevancy, objectivity and accessibility – official statistics provides an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, to compile official statistics that meet the test of practical utility and made it available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honour citizens’ entitlement to public information;

Professional standards and ethics – to retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage, and presentation of statistical data;

Accessibility and relevance – to facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics;

Prevention of misuse – to exercise the right to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics;

Sources of official statistics – to provide obtaining of data for statistical purposes from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records, to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents;

Legislation – to make public the laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate;

National coordination – to realize coordination of statistical activity at the country level in order to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system;

Use of international standards – to use international concepts, classifications and methods and promote consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

4. Advantages

- The State Statistical Committee is the federal system to provide statistical information for managerial authorities, institutions, establishments and organizations, business circles and general public.

- The State Statistical Committee is the substantial agency that follows country development and produces independent, impartial and reliable official statistics reflecting current situation.

- It holds a central function as official statistical data producer in the process of development and strengthening of market relations in the country economic, demographic, social and ecological branches.

- It is the main agency that participates in formation of unified state policy in the field of statistics and realizes this policy in the country.

- According to the law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on “Official statistics” and the Statute of the Committee, young specialists with high knowledge and skills are mostly preferable in staff policy with regard to implementation of forthcoming duties.

- Regulations and standards which the State Statistical Committee uses in statistics practice have been fully brought into compliance with international standards requirements and special attention has been paid on the carried out reforms.
- During the years of independence 5 long-term state programs related with improvement of statistics had been approved by the head of the Government and successfully implemented.
- Following to quality assurance of Azerbaijan official statistics and creation of metadata system, the company “Bureau Veritas”, which is one of the world leaders in the field of certification had carried out audit and on August 15, 2013 the State Statistical Committee was issued by the certificate on compliance with the ISO 9001 standards: 2008 “Production and dissemination of official statistics” and had become the first among government authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- Response burden have been reduced and receiving of reports in online mode have been applied in view of loss of time.

5. Possibilities and trends

Possibilities

Preparation of statistical information on different domains of statistics on activities carried out in official statistics had been achieved. Data bases and dynamics of social-economic, demographic and environment indicators had been classified. So that:

Labour statistics – reflects population and labour resources, number of employed population, labour force movement, labour condition, demand and supply in labour market, unemployment level, wage and salaries, value of labour costs, staff occupational training and other indicators of economically active population that characterizes labour force of the country;

Price statistics – reflects information on average annual prices of consumer goods and paid services provided for population, producer’s prices of industrial, agricultural, fishery and forestry goods, transport, post and telecommunication tariffs, price level, dynamics of construction as well as import and export goods and international comparison of consumer price indices;

Industry and construction statistics – covers such activity areas as mining, manufacturing, electricity, gas and steam production, distribution and supply, water supply, wastes regulation and treatment, energy and construction and reflects place of industry in the economy, volume of the product output, production costs, fixed assets, number of employees and average monthly wage, main indicators of industry by regions, product output in kind and other main statistical indicators;

System of national accounts and macroeconomic indicators statistics – is the bilateral indicators system applied in over 150 countries which reflects macroeconomic processes in the market economy conditions. One of the areas included in national accounts statistics is the finance and bank statistics. This area reflects revenues and expenses of the state budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan, foreign and domestic investments directed to economy, savings of population, manat exchange rate, credits to economy and information about insurance;

Service statistics – comprises education, science, culture, social security, sport, crime, offence, transport, communication and etc.;

Agriculture and environment statistics – comprises information on total agricultural production, cultivated areas of agricultural plants, product output and productivity, number of livestock and poultry, production of many types of animal products, forestry, fishery and hunting, land, forest resources and their protection, fish hunting and increasing and protection of fish industry, main economic indicators of hunting, of which hoofed, furred, poultry;

Population and gender statistics – demographics aspects of human development comprise population size, natural and migratory movement, health, life expectancy, ageing, reproductive health and other wide-scale issues;

Trade statistics – comprises domestic and foreign trade statistics, public catering, paid services, trade and tourism;

Population living standards and household budget survey statistics – comprises improvement of studying of use of leisure time which is the factor of population habits, health and generally development of human capital; studying of habits of population groups in the current development stage of the country economy; development and application of national methodology on poverty based on multifactorial statistical analysis method, as well as methodologies on determination of middle stratum population, and conduction of corresponding surveys; studying of differences between the riches, medium strata and poor people who make the major part of public stability, from the point of possibility of differentiation between population revenues and expenses; studying of housing conditions of average resident, improvement of assessment of population living standards and housing conditions;

Data dissemination – full responding to inquires of statistical data users in a short time have provided improvement of activity within the Committee and the mechanism of responding. For the purpose of timely and comprehensive provision of responding the system of internal electronic documents turnover have been submitted into use in the State Statistical Committee. And that has been increased operating efficiency, the mechanism of unified data presentation and its central control.

Tendencies

Tendencies of integration to the world standards – After gaining its independency Azerbaijan had become full-fledged member of many organizations and in this regard assumed several responsibilities. One of them is the presentation of different statistical information related to social-economic development of the country and integration to the world community. In view of this, one of the main directions of improvement of Azerbaijan statistics were more development of statistical methodology applied in the country, bringing it into compliance with international recommendations and standards and application in the working practice. Renovation and improvement of the methodology, bringing it into compliance with international recommendations would enable provision of data comparability and statistical data exchange with international organizations and statistical services of other countries;

Strengthening international relations – the Committee, within its competencies, builds relations with statistical agencies of foreign countries and international organizations in accordance with international legal rules, makes treaties on cooperation and represents the Republic of Azerbaijan in this area, organizes conferences, symposiums and seminars at international level, as well as participates in events organized by interstate and international nongovernmental organizations. In accordance with international treaties corresponding statistical information is received from statistical agencies of foreign countries in order to compare economic, demographic, social and ecological situation of the country with the state of other countries.

Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed between the Republic of Azerbaijan and EU and its member states have laid the foundation of cooperation in the field of trade, investment and promotion, cross-border services between European Union and the Republic of Azerbaijan, intellectual property rights, capital investment, provision of its free turnover and etc.;

Deepening of globalization – for the purpose of improvement and more development of national statistical system, expanding of application of international experience during the next years the following activities are considered as priority duties in the context of globalization:

– application of international statistical standards at all possible levels taking into account statistical concept and national characteristics of processes and events expressed in data;

- application of international standards providing linking of national statistical data and metadata taking into account users’ needs, national and regional terms characteristics;
- extension of statistical data and metadata exchange with international statistical systems;
- cooperation of national statistical service with international statistical institutions, active participation in international statistical events, bilateral cooperation, experience and exchange of practice with international statistical systems;
- intensified integration of national statistics to global official statistics system, close cooperation with international statistical institutions and services;

6. Main objective

Objective of official statistics is to increase the role of statistical data and serve the interests of legal and natural entities consequently respecting for their rights and keeping confidentiality of primary data.

Main objective of official statistics is to provide administrative authorities, economic objects, research workers with statistical information characterizing social-economic situation in the country, research and technology advancement, mutual economic relations at the country, regional and province levels, structural changes and production efficiency and thus keeping the confidentiality of primary data.

Target of official statistics is to provide statistical data objectivity and comparison in line with international standards, establish unified statistical communication system that provides obviousness of summary statistical materials, ensure constant improvement and rationalize the methods and principles used on data collection, processing, placing in database, communication and dissemination in the framework of this law, and apply the world advanced statistical traditions and scientific achievements in the field of official statistics.

Aim of official statistics is to provide real reflection of the state of official statistics, impartial dissemination of data among users, selection of factors of a crucial importance for corresponding executive authorities, along with that, ensuring the correlation of costs to respondents’ burden on the one part, and respect for citizens’ rights as regard to access to user friendly data taking into account these privileges on the other part, to make decisions about methods and rules of statistical data collection, processing.

One of the main objectives of the Committee is also to provide state authorities with information about achievements gained in the course of execution of duties

arising from the Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: Vision to the future”.

7. Strategic goals and activities

Strategic goal 1. System of national account and macroeconomic indicators statistics

Implementation of the following activities is envisaged during the next years: statistical application of factors influenced on volume, structure and growth rate of GDP indicator of SNA-2008; development of “Supply and use” balance system of goods and services; building of the public sector accounts in compliance with “SNA-2008” updated requirements; improvement of indicators of assets and liabilities balance in the system of national accounts.

Strategic goal 2. Social-economic statistics

Implementation of the following activities is envisaged in 2015: conduction of agricultural census in Azerbaijan in the framework of the World Census of Agriculture; development of questionnaire and methodology on studying of domestic tourism; conduction of sample survey; improvement of methodology of the survey on realized by natural entities import-export operations declaration of which is not required by the law, conduction of the survey; development of methodology and conduction of the survey on provision of youth employment, including those who have get education and returned to Azerbaijan in the framework of the “State Program on education of Azerbaijani youth in foreign countries in 2007-2015”; conduction of statistical survey on registration of infant and child death under 5 years old, publication of the results; conduction of sample survey on use of information-communication technologies in households; development of methodology and organization of railway census; improvement of science, technology and innovation statistics and studying of impact of innovation on economy; development of methodology and conduction of statistical survey on assessment of quality employment for the purpose to study the level of decent work; preparation of methodological explanations on statistical study of “human capital”, development and application of the system of statistical indicators; quarterly conduction of sample survey on “Economic activity of population” and bringing up to 1% of sample in total population; development of methodology on “Estimation of number of population engaged in informal labour activity in the country labour market” and conduction of sample statistical survey; conduction of economic census of small

entrepreneurship subjects, including private entrepreneurs and natural persons, development of system of indicators and methodology on statistical indicators comprising “green economy”; conduction of sample survey on consumption of energy products by private entrepreneurs and households; studying of the level of providing of job and accommodation for youth graduated from boarding schools and children homes; bringing up to 0,5% of sample of HBS in total population; development of national methodology on poverty based on multifactorial statistical analysis method, as well as methodology of determination of middle stratum population and calculation of the share of middle stratum in total population.

Strategic goal 3. Reduction of statistical burden on respondents and work with statistical data users

Implementation of the following activities is planned: preparation and application of “Smart report” by the Committee; establishment of electronic database; providing full compliance of database structure to statistical register; increasing of data exchange possibilities of local statistical bodies; development of internal data networks; expanding of administrative data use for official statistics purposes; conduction of survey on provision of users with statistical information; conduction of research-to-practice conference on assessment of users’ needs and role of statistics in society; creation of “Regional priorities” (preparation of “portrait” forms and enabling formation of “private” portraits); creation and development of statistics portal.

Strategic goal 4. International cooperation and staff capacity building

During the next years implementation of the following activities is envisaged: development of international cooperation in the framework of ENP; cooperation in the framework of international treaties concluded for the purpose of development of official statistics in the country; ensuring involvement of Azerbaijan in the next stages of the World Bank International Comparison Program; creation of continuous, higher vocational training system in the state statistical bodies and staff skills development, organization of practical training of specialists of local statistical bodies in the Committee and short and long term practical training of specialists in statistical institutions of advanced countries.

Strategic goal 5. Management of activity and strengthening of logistical base of the state statistical bodies

Implementation of the followings activities is planned: management of database on administrative information presented by the Committee and received from other state organizations; creation of automated system of record of statistical works capacity, management of automated system; review of organizational structure of Statistical Department of Baku and other local statistical bodies in the framework of reforms realized in the country; improvement of mechanism of activity of regional institutions; renewal of ICT equipment of statistics system, purchasing and application of more modern standard software, information bases, database management system; provision of administrative buildings equipped with modern facilities for local statistical bodies.

Strategic goal 6. Quality management in the system of statistics and application of metadata system

Extension of application of national versions of international economic and social classifications accepted as state standard for the Republic of Azerbaijan, review of statistical classifications taking into account UN Statistical Commission recommendations are envisaged. One of the main objectives is analysis of surveys in all statistical domains based on standards models in the framework of quality management standards in order to enhance efficiency of management of statistical surveys and facilitate monitoring; presentation of detailed information on reporting forms and indicators to respondents and users, continuation of the process of creation of indicators metadata system and statistical reporting forms in order to demonstrate transparency of statistical processes; coordination of metadata system with databases and other internet information resources, ensuring the integration of metadata system to databases for the purpose of automatic acquisition of data on each indicator and methodology on each data.

Strategic goal 7. Unified statistical information system

Establishment and improvement of electronic official statistical data exchange system with state authorities, development of the system of “e-document flow-clerical works” of the State Statistical Committee, development of local and regional information networks and providing technical facilities for these centers, provision of electronic integration of all published summary statistical information to primary databases, establishment and development of geographical information system are envisaged.

Strategic goal 8. Organizing implementation of activities approved by the decree of the Board of the State Statistical Committee dated February 27, 2013, № 7/1 on execution of Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: Vision to the future”

Implementation of duties for statistical bodies arising from Development Concept

Official statistical indicators are referred for the purpose of informing the public about achievements gained on implementation of Development Concept or advancing an idea about it. In this view the Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: Vision to the future” requires implementation of essential and long-term actions addressed to improvement and development of the system of statistics, along with other areas. Official statistics improvement policy in the country is realized through the Development Concept and the state program on improvement of official statistics in Azerbaijan. With a view to implement activities specified in the Concept elaboration and application of projects in the National Plan of Actions involving several central executive authorities and other public organizations is envisaged.

Provision of statistical data for implementation of activities envisaged in the Development Concept

Taking into account role of Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: Vision to the future” in Azerbaijan’s social-economic development the following activities are envisaged: obtaining of statistical data on implementation of actions specified in the Concept, communicating to central executive authorities in order to get more effective decisions; use of official statistical information for the purpose of informing of general public about achievements gained on implementation of the Concept.

Strategic goal 9. Improvement of human resources and education

Improvement of human resources management mechanism is one of the priority duties of the State Statistical Committee. The main goal involves staff selection, placement, planning of career development, increasing of skills level, assessment of service activity, review of employees’ proposals and comments and improvement of other corresponding activities, establishment of the balanced and efficient system for skills development of human resources in the state statistical bodies using modern technologies. For the purpose to prevent high-skilled staff losses because of presence of other opportunities and during possible displacements, and to meet needs in

enhancement of the system of statistics the importance of human resources development and its strategic matter are taken into account.

Development prospects in the field of staff management and capacity building in the state statistics system are identified as follows:

- professional, skills and knowledge development of employees in a constant and consistent manner;
- focusing to direct persons in the list of senior reserve staff to take part in workshops and seminars organized by international institutions;
- studying of professional, business and personal capacities of employees promoted to senior positions included in the SSC staff register;
- improving staff members quality in the state statistical bodies, studying of the state of human capacity, forecasting demand for staff;
- studying of opinion of the Committee’s employees about work environment, actions taken in this regard and other matters;
- focusing to assign most promising specialists in the list of reserve staff for vacant senior positions;
- improving conduction of trainings for local statistical bodies through distance education based on information technologies for the purpose to enlighten and acquaint employees with innovations, international standards applied in the system of statistics;
- management of cost-effective senior human resources;
- improvement of legal knowledge of senior officials and specialists;
- adaptation of young specialists to statistical environment, and effective use of them;
- organization of short-term training courses related with use of ICT and other modern technologies by young specialists and educating the SPSS, Stata and CSPro software packages for specialists of the State Statistical Committee and local statistical bodies.

8. Monitoring and assessment

8.1. Selection of criterions

Monitoring of the system of the State Statistical Committee at several levels is implemented as a constant basis. So, before the years of independency and at present the monitoring are implemented in all agencies of the Committee. Modern requirements and renewal of modern quality characteristics have become the reason of renewal of processes of conducting the monitoring in statistical bodies. Since 2012

conduction of internal monitoring is continued at all stages in the state statistics system based on quality management system. Eurostat conducted monitoring in the Administration of the State Statistical Committee and implemented corresponding activities in the framework of the “Global Assessment”.

8.2. Internal and external monitoring of quality and presentation

Subject matter units are responsible for internal monitoring.

Procedures and methods for monitoring of the quality of statistical production process (survey design, development of survey plan, data collection, processing, analysis and publication) have been applied at necessary level. Filed operations, data input and coding for all surveys have been properly controlled. Review of results has been done only when applicable.

There are internal (note) booklets, guidelines or recommendations on statistical production processes for some domains; brochures on household budget surveys are available for enumerators.

Statistical data calendar is open for public and posted at the webpage of the SSC. Information on statistical indicators in the annual program is systematically collected.

The SSC has realized improvement of standard documentation for statistical products and developed quality management system. Standard documentation provides better metadata for foreign users. Standard documentation process is cost-effective for revealing stages’ shortcomings and potentials for improvement of statistical product.