

The Five-Year Statistical Program of the Republic of Armenia for 2024-2028

INTRODUCTION

The draft “Statistical Program of the Republic of Armenia for 2024-2028” has been developed in accordance with the recommendations of the “Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)” task force established by the United Nations Organization (hereinafter UN), the European Commission, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Monetary Fund (hereinafter IMF), and the World Bank (hereinafter WB). PARIS21 supports countries to define strategies for the development of statistical systems, through diverse expertise and toolkits, defining the future of official statistics.

PART 1.

MISSION

- 1. Armstat is the official provider of impartial statistics and data to the public.**
2. The strategy adopted in the field of official statistics is aimed at ensuring the implementation of the main tasks set out in the Law "On Official Statistics" (developed on the basis of the "Model Law on Official Statistics for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia", United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, New York and Geneva, 2016) and is anchored in the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the principles set out in the European Statistical Code of Practice, the standards and norms of the European Statistical System, the standards and tools for modernization of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the requirements of the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard, as well as the results of the peer review of Armstat and Armenian official statistics by European Union (hereinafter EU) experts (European Commission - Eurostat, European Free Trade Association, United Nations Economic

Commission for Europe) (2018) and the provisions of sectoral reviews by Eurostat experts.

3. Official statistics is the statistics developed, produced and disseminated by bodies authorized by law in accordance with the requirements of the fundamental principles of official statistics, in the form of numerical expressions of essential and measurable phenomena of public life, exclusively reflected in statistical programs, which describes the economic, demographic, social and environmental phenomena of the Republic of Armenia on a representative basis. The purpose and activity meaning of the statistical system is to meet the national, regional and international needs of present and future users by aligning with the current and emerging needs of official statistics users and citizens' rights to publicly available information.

4. The Law "On Official Statistics" defines the framework of activities of Armstat and other producers of official statistics, based on the mandatory principles of professional independence, impartiality, objectivity, accuracy, reliability, non-contradiction, comparability, simplicity, transparency, statistical confidentiality and usability exclusively for statistical purposes and timeliness.

5. Particularly, Armstat and other producers of official statistics make their own decisions on the development, production and dissemination of statistics, including the choice of data sources, concepts, definitions, methods and classifications, as well as the timing and content of all forms of dissemination, independently and without any pressure or interference from political or other external sources. Official statistics is developed, produced and disseminated in a neutral, reliable and impartial manner, in accordance with professional standards and independent of political statements or considerations. All users have equal and simultaneous access to official statistics. Official statistics reflects the existing reality as accurately, non-controversially and reliably as possible, and in the selection of sources, methods and procedures is based on scientific standards. Official statistics has a coherent and comparable character at the international level, over time movement, and across countries and regions.

6. Armstat is a body of the state administration system, whose mission is to develop, produce and disseminate official statistics for the public.

7. Armstat's figures and data are intended to contribute to efforts to build a strong democracy and a functioning economy, and to inform the public about the changes taking place in public life.

PART 2. VALUES

8. According to the fundamental principles of official statistics, users should perceive Armstat as a body radically different from state institutions with a certain political orientation. The guarantees of not involving official statistics in conflicts between political, administrative and departmental interests are defined by the fundamental principles of official statistics.

9. Armstat is proactive in meeting the new needs of society, and will guarantee transparency in the knowledge and methods used, as well as in case of errors.

10. Exclusively the principles of fundamental official statistics, professional ethics of statistics, scientific impartiality, professional independence, equal access to statistics, transparency of statistical dissemination, and quality reporting to users and producers will remain at the core of Armstat's corporate culture, which are aimed at increasing trust in official statistics.

PART 3. VISION

11. Armstat is the preferred source of reliable information for the society.

12. In the modern world, characterized by the growing diversity of information and the intensification of flows, the possible "unification" of the three participants of official statistics - respondents, users and taxpayers - who occupy the corners of the statistical triangle and have diverse polar tendencies, is of great importance, especially from the perspective of the requirements of perception by national, regional and international standards, to explain the thesis underlying the creation of international organizations that "reality is what everyone looks at, and not what each person sees."

13. Regardless of the fact that respondents tend to consider providing information as an additional burden, users of statistics demand more and more detailed statistics in a short time, and taxpayers (the state budget) tend to consider other expenses as more urgent and important than the funds allocated to statistics, each of them is at the same time a respondent, a user of statistics, and a taxpayer, which is why their attitude towards official statistics depends on which of these three "roles" they play at the moment of contact with official statistics. Therefore, in order to reflect reality in a standardized way at the global level, the international community has "agreed" on common standards and methodologies, starting with the formation of the United Nations

Statistical Commission in 1947. The statistical methodology aimed at reflecting reality basically consists of 6 elements:

1) Theoretical layer

- a. Definitions,
- b. Classifications,
- c. Mathematical theory and models,

2) Practical layer

- a. Data sources, i.e. surveys and administrative registers,
- b. A toolkit for data collection, statistics processing and production,
- c. Dissemination policy, including release calendar and revision policy.

14. To ensure that the statistics is reliable, methodologies and policies must be transparent, i.e. documented and published for all.

15. Armstat's further steps towards the vision by 2028, which will be the cornerstone of Armstat's activities and development, will be implemented according to the following strategic goals:

- 1) Processing, production and dissemination of official statistics exclusively following the statistical programs.
- 2) Equal access to statistical information for all members of society.
- 3) Continuously ensuring compliance of the released statistical indicators and metadata with high international statistical criteria and standards.
- 4) Reducing the burden on respondents by using more administrative and non-traditional data sources, as sources of information.
- 5) Expansion of information sources in Armenia, especially by supporting the continuous modernization of administrative registers, the formation of new registers and a unified administrative information system based on digitalization.
- 6) Increasing the integrity and efficiency of the online system for collecting information from respondents.
- 7) Modernization of statistical system.
- 8) Continuous improvement of the statistical information dissemination system.

16. Measures aimed at strategic directions are carried out through annual statistical programs.

17. Reporting of statistical programs is mandatory.

PART 4.
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS

SECTION 1
REAL SECTOR

CHAPTER 1
NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

18. The following activities are planned:

1) Maintenance and improvement of annual and quarterly statistics of National Accounts System of Armenia at the level of whole economy, as well as at the level of institutional sectors of economy, in accordance with international standard classifications, according to the “System of National Accounts - 2008”, “European Accounts System - 2010” and “Quarterly National Accounts 2017” international methodologies,

2) Implementation of works on retrospective reviews on the absolute volume and dynamics of gross domestic product based on the methodological basis of the System of National Accounts,

3) Maintenance of territorial GDP statistics,

4) Improvement of the estimation methodology of sizes and calculations of the non-observed economy by applying “Tabular approach” principle of Eurostat,

5) Compilation of the “supply-use” tables,

6) Maintaining statistics on the monthly economic activity index and performing seasonal adjustment of its time series using the X13-ARIMA-SEATS method and the “JDemetra+” program.

CHAPTER 2
***BUSINESS STATISTICS (INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY,
CONSTRUCTION, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, TRADE AND OTHER
SERVICES)***

19. The following activities are planned:

1) Maintenance of statistics according to the Classification of Types of Economic Activities,

2) Complete introduction of Armenian Classification of Products by Types of Activity in industry statistics (up to 9 digits), as well as in agriculture, forestry and fish-breeding, construction, transport and communication, trade, other service sectors statistics,

3) Continued improvement of processing and production methodology of statistical data and ensuring international comparability based on the provisions of the principle of "Non-contradiction and Comparability" from the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, thereby ensuring compliance and comparability with the standards used in international statistical practice, as well as the process of integrating national statistical data into global databases, using statistical Peer Reviews as assessment tools,

4) Application of toolkit for non-observed (non registered) economy evaluation by type of activity and ensuring their continuity, mainly based on informal employment estimates from the labor force survey,

5) Updating of registration field through business register, as well as farm register information database, extension and improvement of application of sample observations methods,

6) Publication of energy balance of the Republic of Armenia in accordance with International Energy Commission standards,

7) Preparation, conduction of the agricultural census of the Republic of Armenia in 2024, summarization and publication of the obtained data. Creation of a individual, addressable statistical register of individual (farms) households,

8) Continuous improvement of the system of indicators characterizing the state of food security (food availability, accessibility and consumption), in accordance with the methodology used by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the European Commission, and the periodical compilation and publication of national food balance sheets based on it,

9) Extension of the scope of application of administrative registers as a source of statistical information.

CHAPTER 3

PRICES AND TARIFFS

20. The following activities are planned:

1) Implementation of the next review and updating of the composition and structure of goods and services considered for the consumer price indexes (hereinafter CPI), recalculation of weights of goods-services included in the CPI basket,

2) Development of the national version of 2018 revised edition of "Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose" used for the calculation of CPI and implementation of its application in CPI calculations,

3) Continuous improvement of industrial product producers' indexes, agricultural product producers' realization and purchase price indexes of agricultural production means,

4) Implementation of residential property price index's introduction in cooperation with the Central Bank of RA and RA Cadastre Committee,

5) Participation in the works of 2024 round of the World Bank's international global comparisons program for calculating gross domestic product and purchasing power parity of national currencies.

CHAPTER 4

LABOR MARKET

21. The following activities are planned:

1) Phased introduction, localization and/or modernization of innovative technologies (introduction of online information transfer systems) and methods in all levels of statistical business processes in sub-sectors of the labor statistics sector, taking into account the availability, accessibility, cost-effectiveness of toolkits and methods of the data potential sources,

2) Phased localization and introduction of resolutions, new and/or revised international standards to be adopted by the 21st Conference of Labor Statisticians in 2023, revision of available statistics, introduction of new classifications,

3) Implementation of thematic (one-time, periodic, pilot) surveys and observations; dynamic development of labor and gender statistics, ensuring statistical production reflecting sectoral transformations and developments (e.g., statistics on green jobs, digital jobs, etc.),

4) Expanding digital platforms for labor and gender statistics indicators in line with users needs.

CHAPTER 5

BUSINESS REGISTER

22. The following activities are planned:

1) Continuous implementation of work aimed at completing the statistical business register, regularly updating it, and improving the quality of indicators. For this purpose, the cooperation with the state and local self-governing bodies maintaining the administrative register will be deepened, the toolkits for collecting/receiving, processing and summarizing information will be improved, which will contribute to reduce the burden on the respondents,

2) Continuous maintenance of quantitative and demographic statistics on small and medium entrepreneurship based on updated data from the statistical business register.

CHAPTER 6

CLASSIFICATIONS

23. The following activities are planned:

1) Development and/or revision of classifications, classification collective groupings and transition keys based on internationally adopted new methodological recommendations aimed at statistical application purposes, as well as taking into account national peculiarities.

CHAPTER 7

FINANCES OF ORGANIZATION

24. The following activities are planned:

1) Maintenance of finance statistics of commercial organizations of non-financial sector of economy, according to the Armenian Classification of “Types of Economic Activities”,

2) Maintenance of statistics on purchasing power of organizations, financial stability, as well as profitability of products and assets,

3) Ensurance of the derivation of financial indicators, necessary to maintain the structural business statistics.

SECTION 2

TAX, BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL SECTORS

25. The following activities are planned:

1) Maintenance and improvement of state finance statistics (consolidated, state, communities budgets and their elements) in accordance with the internationally adopted and applied methodologies (including maintenance of statistics, according to the classification of “Government Finance Statistics 2001” Manual and implementation of the preparatory works on Introduction of “Government Finance Statistics 2014” Manual, jointly with the authorized body maintaining relevant administrative register),

2) Maintenance and improvement of public debt statistics of the Republic of Armenia (jointly with the authorized body maintaining relevant administrative register),

3) Maintenance and improvement of statistics of financial intermediation sector (including financial intermediation of non-banking sector, jointly with the authorized body maintaining relevant administrative register),

4) Maintenance and improvement of the “Financial account” statistics, in accordance with the principles of the “System of National Accounts - 2008”.

SECTION 3

EXTERNAL SECTOR

26. The following activities are planned:

- 1) Compilation of the article “Goods and Services” of the current account of Balance of Payments of the Republic of Armenia according to IMF methodology,
- 2) Collection of external and mutual trade indicators in accordance with the external and mutual trade methodology (International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions), developed by Eurasian Economic Commission,
- 3) Enhancement of the registration field of foreign investments and improvement of estimation of indicators, in accordance with the internationally adopted and applied methodologies (including, jointly with the authorized body maintaining relevant administrative register),
- 4) Enhancement of the registration field of international services and improvement of estimation of indicators, in accordance with the internationally adopted and applied methodologies,
- 5) Improvement of the maintenance of international and domestic tourism statistics.

SECTION 4

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC SECTOR

CHAPTER 1

SOCIAL SPHERE

27. The following activities are planned:

- 1) Continuous improvement of maintenance of statistics in the social sphere (education, science, culture, sports, social protection, other fields of socio-demographics, housing stock and public utilities) based on the improvement of administrative registers and the expansion of their scope of application,
- 2) Ensuring continuity of methodological support provided to administrative registers.

CHAPTER 2

HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYS

28. The following activities are planned:

1) Regular conduction of Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey and improvement of methodology in line with methodological developments, elaborated by the World Bank,

2) Ensuring higher representativeness of sampling of Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey by regions of the Republic of Armenia and by Yerevan city with the purpose to complete and update the main indicators characterizing poverty and social situation,

3) Implementation of in-depth poverty assessment through Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey, including the completion and improvement of content of indicators on social exclusions, food security, children needs, access to information and telecommunication technologies at individual level,

4) Evaluation of Multidimensional Poverty Index and continuous improvement of its application as an alternative method for measuring poverty,

5) Ensuring continuity and improvement of the maintenance of material and non-material poverty indicators (education, healthcare, access to safe drinking water and housing conditions).

CHAPTER 3

DEMOGRAPHY

29. The following activities are planned:

1) Continuous improvement of the work of obtaining and producing data on the natural movement of the population - birth, death, marriage and divorce, recognition of paternity - from the Civil Status Acts Register of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia: completion of the information filled in the relevant civil status acts, alignment of their statistical classification and statistical data outputs with the internationally defined list,

2) Introduction of control mechanisms of statistical processing works of data received electronically on population natural movement: birth, death, marriage, and divorce, recognition of paternity from registration of civil status acts of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, increasing data quality (in data editing, adjustment and completion/imputation procedures) and ensuring the derivation of relevant output data,

3) Methodological support to ensure the completeness of administrative registration databasis on mechanical movements of population (migration), receiving of statistical data in accordance with internationally defined standards on registered population, persons (immigrants) registered throughout the year and deregistered persons

(emigrants), persons in need of international protection and foreigners who received a residence status, persons who acquired citizenship of the Republic of Armenia and persons who stopped the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia,

4) The implementation of appropriate changes in the procedures for calculating the population and obtaining output tables of natural movement, due to the consolidation of RA communities,

5) Supplementing the list of statistical data on migration, with regard to applications from citizens of the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union and their family members for the issuance of certificates certifying the legality of residence in the Republic of Armenia, decisions made on them, applications for the issuance of certificates certifying the legality of residence in the Republic of Armenia, the granting of temporary residence status to foreigners based on work activity, with data obtained from the "Workpermit.am" platform,

6) Implementation of works to obtain statistical data of RA international migration through the identification of individual data of the Border Electronic Management Information System,

7) Development of necessary mechanisms for matching the data formed in the unified information database of the state population register and the Border Electronic Management Information System with the databases of administrative registration of migration,

8) Recalculation of the population size, sex-age composition, as well as key demographic indicators for inter-census years, by city of Yerevan, RA marzes, and city/village distribution based on the results of the 2022 RA Population Census.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

30. The following activities are planned:

1) Ensuring continuity of work on the implementation of the environmental-economic accounting system.

2) Expansion and improvement of indicators related to climate change in accordance with international methodology and administrative accounting on the basis of the roadmap for the development of climate change statistics in Armenia,

3) Improvement and enhancement of statistics on disasters, introduction of statistical indicators of damage and loss caused by disasters.

CHAPTER 5

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

31. The quality policy of Armstat is aimed at the systematic improvement of statistical products and processes through the development of relevant methodologies and tools.

32. Armstat will ensure the operation of its quality system, based on the 16 principles of the European Statistical Code of Practice (which covers institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical output) and the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System, which supports the implementation of the European Statistical Code of Practice by identifying activities, methods and tools for the implementation of the European Statistical Code of Practice indicators.

33. Armstat will continue to ensure the following standards (principles) of statistical quality:

- 1) Relevance,
- 2) Accuracy,
- 3) Timeliness and punctuality,
- 4) Accessibility and clarity, as well as
- 5) Comparability and
- 6) Coherence.

34. The main issues of Armstat in quality management sphere are:

- 1) Continuous updating of quality declarations,
- 2) Continuous updating of documentations of statistical processes of statistical products, based on Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), developed by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE),
- 3) Continuous updating of visualization of statistical processes of statistical products by graphs, based on GSBPM,
- 4) Complete introduction of the reference metadata system. Compilation and update of user oriented (ESMS) and producer oriented (ESQRS) quality reports for statistical products in accordance with EU Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) and reporting formats (Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS) and ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure (ESQRS)).
- 5) Continuous implementation of work to complete the self-assessment questionnaire of the European Statistics Code of Practice indicators and summary of the results,

6) Implementation of the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO) developed by UNECE, which describes and defines the activities of a typical organization producing official statistics,

7) Updating of Statistical Glossary, Glossary of Quality Concepts, Glossary of European Statistics Code of Practice, Glossary of GSBPM,

8) Spreading a quality culture through regular training courses, seminars, on-the-job training and other initiatives,

9) Implementation of assessments of the institutional environment, processes and results of the national statistical system also by external experts, including international experts, exclusively in accordance with the fundamental principles of official statistics and the requirements of international statistical standards.

PART 5

MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES AND INTRODUCTION OF TECHNOLOGIES

35. The following activities are planned:

1) Ensuring and updating of the integrity, accessibility and confidentiality of information,

2) Updating and maintaining of official and internal service websites, including development of a new official website,

3) Updating the National Reporting Platform for Sustainable Development Goals indicators,

4) Management, coordination and update of the online data collection system,

5) continuous modernization of information system for complete storage and processing (Warehouse) of collected data,

6) Maintenance of existing software systems, upgrade and integration with other systems,

7) Digitalization of survey data collection processes using CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing), CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing) and other innovative technologies,

8) Implementation and management of statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX) and other international standards,

9) Modernization and expansion of the corporate network.

PART 6

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COOPERATION

36. In the field of statistics the international cooperation, being one of the United Nations Fundamental Principles and principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, plays an important role in the processing, production and dissemination of official statistics in the modern world. In this regard, it is planned to continue and further expand international statistical cooperation according to the following goals:

- 1) Strengthening statistical capacity and capabilities,
- 2) Further promotion of European and international standards in Armenia and alignment of the national statistical production with European norms and standards through the exchange of best practices,
- 3) Ensuring the application of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, Principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, Principles of the Declaration on Professional Ethics, Principles Governing International Statistical Activities,

37. Armstat will continue its active involvement within the framework of international cooperation in improving statistical methodology and experience, harmonizing accepted international norms, studying information published by national statistical services of different countries, and ensuring comparability of indicators, which will be carried out in the following main directions:

- 1) Development and implementation of cooperation projects with the participation of foreign experts at the expense of financial resources of national and regional technical assistance programs of international organizations.
- 2) Bilateral and multilateral cooperation with national statistical institutes of foreign countries.

38. Armstat will continue to participate in the EU Eastern Partnership program on statistics.

39. Armstat will continue the cooperation with relevant EU institutions in the framework of EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (Part IV, Chapter 3, Statistics, Article 30-35),

40. Armstat will continue its institutional capacity development through the use of EU Twinning and TAIEX instruments, aimed at the formation and further improvement of a statistical system in line with EU standards, the approximation of EU regulations, and the alignment with EU legislation and standards.

PART 7

STAFF TRAINING AND RETRAINING

41. Armstat will provide a training policy based on training programs, oriented to staff needs and requirements and aimed at the exchange of knowledge, skills, experience and information.

42. Guided by the requirements of the RA Law “On Civil Service”, the proces of training will be continued with a purpose to continuously improve the professional knowledge and working skills of civil servants of Armstat staff.

43. Within the framework of international statistical cooperation, Armstat will continue the process of staff training and retraining, including employees of structural divisions. Participation in courses, seminars and workshops organized by international organizations and national statistical iinstitutes and other organizations will be continued.

PART 8

FINANCING OF STATISTICAL PROGRAMS

44. Statistical Programs are financed from the state budget, as well as from other funds not prohibited by the law.

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