Quality declaration Integrated Living Conditions Survey of Households

0.General Information on Statistical Products		
0.1	Title	Integrated Living Conditions Survey of Households (ILCS)
0.2	Subject Area	Households
0.3	Responsible Authority, Office, Person, etc.	Ms. Lusine Markosyan Head Households Statistics Division Armstat 3 Government House, Republic Avenue Yerevan, 0010, Armenia Tel: +374 11 52 43 26 E-mail: lusine_markosyan@armstat.am info@armstat.am
0.4	Purpose and History	It provides comprehensive information regarding the living conditions of the population of Armenia and quantitative evaluation of its main describing indicators. The results of Integrated Living Conditions Survey of households (ILCS) are primarily used to estimate consumption-based poverty rates in the country, as well as to provide other valuable information on households' living conditions by other indicators (income, expenses, consumption of main food stuff, etc). The Integrated Living Conditions Survey was first conducted in Armenia in 1996 (in a one- month period), followed by the one in 1998/99; thereafter, it has been conducted every year since 2001. The survey is carried out during one year with monthly changes (rotation) of households and communities. Since 1996, when the up-to-date methodology of households welfare survey was introduced in Armenia for the first time, the Statistical Committee of Armenia (Armstat) with the assistance of the World Bank, USAID and other donor organizations, continuously made efforts to improve the quality of the collected data on the households level and to increase its own skills for more accurate assessment of poverty level. Those efforts were justified as the information collected in the result of households' survey and the assessment of poverty level

		based on them deemed to be very important investment for the formulation of poverty reduction strategy and monitoring, and RA Government was the responsible body for aforementioned efforts. Since 2004 Integrated Living Standards Survey of Households was renamed Integrated Living Conditions Survey of Households (In English).
0.5	Users and Application	The main users of statistical information are the government and local self-government bodies, public, scientific-educational, financial organizations, business society, mass media, international organizations, etc. The results of Integrated Living Conditions Survey of households are primarily used to estimate consumption-based poverty rates in the country, as well as to provide other valuable information on households' living conditions by other indicators.
0.6	Information Sources	5184 households (HH) are surveyed annually (by directly visiting the households), an exhaustive database of country's private HH addresses is used for the sampling.
0.7	Legal Authority to Collect Data	The data are collected based on the Law on "Official Statistics" and "Five Year Statistical Program", as well as the Resolution No. 05-N of RA State Council on Statistics "On Approval of the Procedure for the collection of statistical data" dated 20 June 2016 and Resolution "On Approval of Annual Statistical Program". According to RA Government Decision No 1866 of November 28, 2002 the Armstat should conduct household's surveys periodically every year.
0.8	Response Burden	Response burden is not measured.
Content		
1.1	Description of the Content	The results of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS) of households are used in order to get valuable information on the population living conditions by the following indicators consumption, income, expenses, consumption of the basic food, existence of long-term goods, affordable health and educational systems, social transfers, etc. The aforementioned indicators may be combined with the following basic information on households: the size of the household, its structure, the housing conditions, the educational level and the location of residence.

1.2	Statistical Concepts	The Integrated Living Conditions Survey studies the actual living conditions of private households. The survey also collects the subjective assessments of health and living conditions. The methodology (group of indicators, definitions, classifications, informational sources and calculation tools) is based on the World Bank methodology. Private household is defined as an economic unit (a survey unit). A household is considered to be a person or a group of persons, who live together and have joint household (being relatives is not obligatory). The poverty level of the country plays an important role while evaluating welfare and living conditions of the population. Poverty is expressed in different ways and shows different aspects of life: consumption, food security, health, and education, rights, including the freedom of speech, security, dignity and decent work. The characteristics of non-material poverty are bad health, low educational level or illiteracy, social ignorance, insecurity, non-applicability of freedom of rights and speech, that is in practice the inability of informing about own problems. Main directions of non-material poverty reduction are increasing the educational, health and social services affordability that is more concretely addressing unpaid services and increasing abilities of using the paid services. In Armenia the poverty is assessed through material (monetary) indicators (the main approach). In the mentioned context according to the World Bank definition, the poverty is the inability to provide the minimum living conditions. In Armenia, as an alternative treatment method, are estimated relative and multidimensional poverty rates. The concept of relative poverty relates to a notion of social exclusion and considers households which live on less than 60 percent of average income as poor. This methodology is widely used in European Union countries and builds around the idea that poverty is no longer the inability to afford basic things in life but rather describes how some groups are at risk of falling behind the

rest of the population. The relative poverty line is calculated as a household income shares for each years.

The poverty rate according to calculation of consumption useful in terms of information, but containing some restrictions approach. According to consumption for the calculation of the poverty rate based on the monetary value of all goods and services consumed by households. Despite, not all the wellbeing components are possible to bring in terms of money; among them are particularly, housing conditions, the main services, for example the quality of water supply.

Another example is unemployment; not having a job for households has a number of other effects except being deprived of source of income , as it has a negative effect on quality of life and even a human dignity. To assess these measures of poverty are developed Multidimensional Poverty Index by researchers (MPI).

The application of the methodological technics of Multidimensional Poverty Index is presented in the work of Alkir and Foster (2007), which was used by the UN Development Program report (UBDP, 2010) and summarized by the authors.

By Multidimensional Poverty Index studied, that which part of population is deprived of some or all well-being components. To assess the vulnerability or poverty The Multidimensional Poverty Index jointly study two key importance data; the poverty rate or in the observed population with a number of being deprivations , and the degree of bearing deprivations or the average number of deprivations , which bears the mentioned share of population. This poverty assessment, which is also called the degree of deprivation assessments. In Armenia the main observed measurement of poverty is education, health, labor, housing conditions and the consumption according to the extreme poverty line.

Further, doing analyses can be considered other measurements.

Monetary incomes of the households comprise the remuneration of the members of the household (not included the income tax and other mandatory types of social payments), amounts received in the result of self-employment or entrepreneurial activity, social transfers (pensions, social monetary contribution, including unemployment benefits, family benefits, benefits received for

| | | child birth and care, other types of benefits) private transfers, rental fees of leased property, interest fees, dividends, amounts received from the sale of shares and other stocks, monetary incomes received from sale of real estate and other property, cattle, sale of food products of own household production, scholarships, as well as remittances received from relatives and other persons or other monetary incomes.

The whole income of the household comprises all articles of monetary incomes, and such non-monetary incomes, which are the food received from the own household and consumed (used) in the household expressed in money, as well as goods and services received from relatives and other persons free of charge.

The next indicator characterizing the material situation of households are consumption expenses of households.

Consumption expenses of households include the amount of money spent for food and non- food products and services procurement within the reference period, non-food products and services received from relatives and other persons free of charge, expenses spent on the food products outside, expenses spent for goods and services of long-term use, money spent on food products produced by their own farm, as well as given by their relatives or other people and consumed by the members of the household. |
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| **2.Time** | | |
| 2.1 | Reference Period | Surveys are conducted during the year with monthly changes (rotation) of households and communities. |
| 2.2 | Date of Publication | Some initial data are published at the beginning of the third quarter following the survey year, and final results are published in the fourth quarter. |
| 2.3 | Punctuality | Data are usually published according to the schedule of publications by annual programs and without any delay in relation to the scheduled day. |
| 2.4 | Frequency | Annual |
| **3.Accuracy** | | |
| 3.1 | Overall Accuracy | Survey results are representative at the country, |

		village/town/marz levels. The survey data have minimum representativeness on the level of marzes and Yerevan city.

3.2	Sources of Inaccuracy	The survey is carried out according to regional stratification, on the principle of two-step sampling.
		The method of systematic representative probability sampling was used to frame the sample.
		
		The survey is carried out throughout the whole year on rotation basis. The unit of observation is HH. The size of monthly sample is 432 HH, and in 2016 the annual size of HH sample is 5184 HH. The response rate (participation) is about 91%. Each respondent may be included in the survey only once a year. The survey is carried out by direct visits to the HH.
		
		The survey results have some non-sampling errors, which are the result of the following:
		In 2016 ILCS was conducted on basis of the designed addresses database of 2011 Population Census results, but it had been 5 years old. The address database is updated every 10 years.
		
		The refusals of HH to take part in the survey.
		
		Incomplete answers, etc.
		Due to lack of funds in the primary sample units listing and mapping is not implemented.
		The main indicators of the standard errors are mandatory calculated and published.
		Representative errors occur because of the main list of the lack of household sampling is done from the additional list, which leads deviation of information.
		The results of research have some non-sampling errors, which reasons are;
		   a) registry errors (mechanical)
		   b) not complete training.
		   c) interviewer mistakes and wrong answers to the respondent
		   d) errors during data processing and etc.
		The survey data is weighted and extrapolated among the general population.

		The main survey results are accompanied with information on standard error, which expresses the reliability range of indicator «+/-»with s sampling error.
		Information on sampling error margin is important, since the user has an opportunity to assess the "risk factor" of applied indicator. The 95% reliability range is applied, which means that in case of 100 times repetition of the same survey, the indicator for 95% will be identical and for 5% the indicator will go up or down from the mentioned margin.
		The information on the sampling error size is published in "Social Snapshot and Poverty in Armenia" statistical analytical report.
3.3	Measures on accuracy	See section 3.2
4.Comparability		
4.1	Comparability over Time	Only the survey of 1996 was conducted in a one month period, thereafter all other surveys had been carried out on annual basis.
		Armstat with the support of the World Bank applies the third methodology for absolute poverty level assessment. That is why the indicators are not comparable.
		Comparable indicators with three methodologies on poverty level is presented in the statistical analytical report «Social Snapshot and Poverty» in Armenia.
4.2	Comparability with other Statistics	Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS) is not compared to other statistics.
4.3	Coherence between Provisional and Final Statistics	Indicators calculated according to ILCS results (based on the World Bank methodology) may be revised after the preliminary publication.
		Changes of the published data are accompanied by the explanatory notes.
5.Accessibility		
5.1	Forms of Dissemination	Publications
		Annual publications
		The Statistical Yearbook of Armenia is available in Armenian, English, and Russian.
		Marzes of the Republic of Armenia and Yerevan city in Figures,

| | | Statistical Handbook is available in Armenian and English.

Armenia in Figures, Statistical Handbook available in Armenian and English.

Women and Men in Armenia Statistical Handbook (Armenian and English.

"Social Snapshot and Poverty in Armenia" Statistical Analytical Report available in Armenian and English.

Other publications
Informal Sector and Informal Employment in Armenia 2010 National Report
«Food Security and Poverty» bulletin

Databases:
https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=15

https://armstatbank.am/pxweb/hy/ArmStatBank/?rxid=c169b79c-9f82-4878-a96a-9e404a9f976b&rxid=c169b79c-9f82-4878-a96a-9e404a9f976b

Website:
Electronic publications are available in Armenian and English at: http://www.armstat.am/am/. |
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| 5.2 | Basic Material: Storage and Usability | The database of HH ILCS contains individual anonymous data, which is maintained and archived in accordance with relevant procedures. |
| 5.3 | Documentation | Publication of indicators is accompanied with description of methodology, which is presented in details in "Social Snapshot and Poverty in Armenia" statistical analytical report (Armenian and English) and separate thematic publications at http://www.armstat.am/am/. |
| 5.4 | Other Information | Publication of indicators is accompanied with description of methodology, which is presented in details in "Social Snapshot and Poverty in Armenia" statistical analytical report (Armenian and English) and separate thematic publications at http://www.armstat.am/am/. |

6.Supplementary Documentation		
6.1		Information is available under the General Statistical Business-Process Model at https://www.armstat.am/en/?nid=672.