



RA NATIONAL
STATISTICAL
SERVICE

WORLD BANK

ARMENIA SOCIAL SNAPSHOT AND POVERTY

Statistical Analytical Report

Based on the Results of 2016 Integrated Living Conditions Survey of
Households

YEREVAN -2017

In present day world which is characterized by the information variety and intensity of informational flows, the possible “combination” of three participants of official statistics such as respondents, users and taxpayers, “occupying the angles of statistical triangle” and having different addictions, is of great importance, especially in terms of national and international standards of perception requirements (communication skills alignment). The National Statistical Service of RA (RA NSS) would like to thank all the respondents who have supplied information for this statistical publication, and welcomes any comments and suggestions from the respondents and taxpayers, as statistical users, for further improvement of statistical publications.

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Please, send your comments and suggestions aimed at further improvement of the publications to the RA NSS Public Relations and Statistical Information Dissemination Division.

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To inform the Armenian public of the poverty level and social situation in the country, the Republic of Armenia National Statistical Service (RA NSS) produces this annual statistical analytical report entitled Social Snapshot and Poverty in Armenia. The report was prepared with the financial support of the Republic of Armenia State Budget, and the content was compiled by the World Bank's analytical and technical support. The report is intended to inform the public about the living conditions and social situation in the country in 2016. The report provides detailed statistical information about the current social and economic developments. The Report describes poverty dynamics at various socio-economic, demographic and geographical levels in the country. This Report is based on the results of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS), conducted annually by the RA NSS. The ILCS is a universally recognized as the most crucial tool for collecting data to characterize the living standards of households. ILCS comprises comprehensive and valuable data on the welfare of households and individuals which enables NSS to annually provide the public with up to date information on the population's income, expenditures, the level of poverty and the other changes in living standards. The RA NSS makes continuous efforts to improve the quality of ILCS to make it fully compatible with similar surveys in developed countries. To this end, the RA NSS uses modern methodologies and approaches for poverty assessment.

The current publication of the Social Snapshot and Poverty in Armenia Report is based on data collected in 2016 from the survey of 5 184 households.

The sample for the survey was developed using the 2011 RA Population Census database. The size of the sample allows for the minimal representation of data on the provincial level¹:

The survey was conducted from January 1 through December 31, 2016.

The results presented in this report are based on the poverty measurement methodology revised in 2009 with the support of the World Bank. Compared to the 2004-2008 methodology, the revised methodology has the following peculiar feature: new minimum food basket is developed which reflects the changes in the structure of consumption since 2004-2008 as well as the shares of food, non-food components and services. The data of 2009 ILCS was used when developing the minimum food consumption model. This new basket was used to calculate the extreme and total (lower and upper) poverty lines. The new basket will be as a benchmark for poverty measurement and will be revised based on the average annual increase in prices. To get more insight into the methodology, please see the chapter on "Methodological Clarifications". So, with the objective to document the socio-economic situation in Armenia and the poverty level in Armenia, this report presents a comprehensive analysis of social and economic developments and changes in poverty from 2008 to 2015. The Report also draws on information provided by the Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs, Health Care, and Education and Science.

I hope that this Report will be a useful source of information for all the users interested in being aware about social and economic developments and poverty in Armenia.

Stepan Mnatsaknayan
President, RA National Statistical Service

¹Only 2004-2016 surveys provided minimum representation at marz level.

Dear Rich People of Armenia!

We apply to you, asking for your generosity, with a request to participate in future Integrated Living Conditions Surveys of households. Your refusal to participate in the surveys has a negative effect on the quality of the data we collect.

Analysis, which is based on this data, is important for the public, as it is meant to “shed light” on the fundamental directions of the programs and policies that will be implemented in our country in the future. Moreover, when households included in the survey sample refuse to participate in the survey, other households are selected, and this requires additional work and excessive resources.

We assure that according to the fundamental principles of the official statistics approved by the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the UN Statistical Commission and the RA Law on State Statistics based thereon, all providers of initial nominal information provided for statistical purposes are guaranteed the confidentiality of that information (Article 14).