LAW ON OFFICIAL STATISTICS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Scope of the Law
1. The present Law regulates the relations related to the formation of the National Statistical System of the Republic of Armenia, development, production and dissemination of official statistics, conducting censuses.

Article 2. Legislation on Official Statistics
1. The relations related to the official statistics are regulated by the present Law, other laws and legal acts, as well as international agreements of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 3. Official Statistics
1. Official statistics are statistics developed, produced and disseminated by law-authorized bodies in accordance with the requirements of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, exclusively reflected in statistical programs that are the numerical expression of the essential and proportionate phenomena of public life, describing on a representative basis the economic, demographic, social and environmental phenomena of the Republic of Armenia.
2. The provisions of this Law apply to participants of official statistics: producers, respondents and users, relations arising between them and to all data in their possession.

Article 4. Main Definitions Used in the Law
1. The main definitions used in the present Law are:
   1) **Use for statistical purposes**: the exclusive use of data for the development, production of official statistics, provision of statistical services, including all activities regulated by the present Law;
   2) **Statistical data**: data collected for statistical purposes and disseminated through statistical programs;
3) **Statistical survey:** the primary collection of individual data from respondents of a given population carried out by a Producer of Official Statistics exclusively for statistical purposes based on the systematic use of statistical methodology;

4) **Administrative data:** data collected for administrative purposes by, or on behalf of, state and local self-government bodies, the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia other than producers of official statistics, and the legal basis for collection other than statistical legislation;

5) **Statistical unit:** the bearer of statistical characteristics;

6) **Individual data:** any information characterizing the statistical unit that allows or can allow to directly or indirectly identify it;

7) **Identifier:** a sequence of characters allowing unique identification of a statistical unit based on its name, location and places of business or identification number. An identifier may allow direct identification, meaning the identification of an individual statistical unit from one or a combination of identifiers. Identification done by any other means is referred to as indirect identification. Indirect identification is considered when the individuality of a statistical unit can be found in the absence of individual data but through other additional data, in reasonable conditions in terms of time, cost and human resources;

8) **Aggregated data:** total data, including averaged summary data of individual data on more than one respondents;

9) **Production:** all the activities related to the necessary collection, storage, processing and analysis of data to compile official statistics;

10) **Development:** the activities to set up, strengthen and improve statistical methods, concepts, standards and procedures used for the production and dissemination of official statistics;

11) **Metadata:** methodological documents that describe statistical data and statistical processes in a standardized way, by providing information on data sources, methodologies, definitions, classifications and data quality;

12) **Dissemination:** the activity of making statistical data, statistical services and metadata accessible to users;
13) **Revised statistics:** the revision of disseminated official statistics as a result of respondents’ adjustments, additional actions to compose official statistics, methodological, including changes in definitions, classifications and information sources;

14) **Release:** the dissemination activity by which official statistics, including revised statistics, become publicly known for the first time.

**Article 5. National Statistical System and Relations of Other Participants Related to Official Statistics**

1. The national statistical system of the Republic of Armenia comprised of producers of official statistics includes:

1) The Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia (hereafter Statistical Committee) that is the main state body of the National Statistical System of the Republic of Armenia;


3) Other producers of official statistics consisting of organizational units of state and local self-government bodies that develop, produce and disseminate official statistics in accordance with the present Law;

2. Other participants of relations related to official statistics are:

1) Respondents: in the context of the present Law, natural and legal persons considered as a statistical unit, including separate units operating in the territory of the Republic of Armenia by foreign legal persons, individual entrepreneurs, households, state and local self-government bodies, state institutions without status of the legal person that are requested to provide information about themselves and their activities, through data collection carried out by producers of official statistics;

2) Administrative data providers: state and local self-government bodies that provide producers of official statistics with data collected for administrative purposes. Provision of administrative data by the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia is carried out in accordance with the Law of the
Republic of Armenia "On the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia" and the normative legal acts adopted on its basis;

3) Users of official statistics: natural and legal persons, state and local self-government bodies, international organizations and authorities of other countries, who receive official statistics or have access to it;

4) Advisory bodies of statistics users of the Republic of Armenia, whose status, procedure of operation and powers are defined in Chapter 4 of this Law.

CHAPTER 2. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS


1. All producers of official statistics develop, produce and disseminate official statistics of the Republic of Armenia according to the following Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and other agreed statistical principles:

1) **Professional independence:** producers of official statistics decide, independently and free from any pressures or interference from political or other external sources, on the development, production and dissemination of statistics, including the selection of data sources, concepts, definitions, methods and classifications to be used, and the timing and content of all forms of dissemination. Producers of official statistics, in their respective areas of competence, may comment publicly on statistical issues and the cases of misuse of official statistics;

2) **Impartiality and objectivity:** official statistics is developed, produced and disseminated in a neutral, reliable and unbiased manner according to professional standards and free from any political statements or considerations. All users have equal and simultaneous access to official statistics;

3) **Accuracy and reliability:** official statistics reflects as accurately, coherently and faithfully as possible the existing reality and is based on scientific criteria used for the selection of sources, methods and procedures;

4) **Coherence and comparability:** statistics are consistent internationally and comparable over time and across regions and countries;
5) **Clarity and transparency:** official statistics is presented in a clear and understandable way, and the methods and procedures applied are transparently communicated to users to ensure proper interpretation;

6) **Statistical confidentiality and exclusive use for statistical purposes:** individual data collected or obtained by Producers of Official Statistics that refer to natural or legal persons are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes;

7) **Relevance:** conforming official statistics to current and emerging users’ needs and citizens’ right to receive public information.

**CHAPTER 3. NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

**Article 7. Statistical Committee**

1. The Statistical Committee is a state body subject to the Government of the Republic of Armenia that is independent in carrying out its authorities, is governed by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, international treaties of the Republic of Armenia, the present Law and other legal acts.

2. The Statistical Committee is a state body that is radically different from state institutions with certain political orientation. The guarantees for not involving official statistics in conflicts between political, administrative and departmental interests are defined by the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

3. The State Council on Statistics (hereafter State Council), is the supreme body of governance of the national statistical system, including the Statistical Committee, except for the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics.

4. The Statistical Committee is the main producer of official statistics of the Republic of Armenia and coordinates all activities for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics within the national statistical system, except the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia.
5. The Statistical Committee carries out its activity through its central office, territorial and operational units.

6. The Statistical Committee is financed by the state budget, as well as by other means not prohibited by law.

7. To ensure the production of official statistics through regular sampling surveys, the statistical committee carries out statistical information collection program at the expense of state budget allocations each year.

8. The Statistical Committee cannot be assigned responsibilities that are in contradiction with this Article, as well as the fundamental principles defined by the Article 6 of the present Law.

**Article 8. Head of Statistical Committee**

1. The Statistical Committee is led by the President, who is appointed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia for a term of 6 years upon presentation by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

2. The President of the Statistical Committee may be appointed from any citizen of the Republic of Armenia having higher economic education with at least five years of work experience in the field of statistics (of which at least for three years position with coordination functions of units or head of unit), with knowledge of Armenian language.

3. The President of the Statistical Committee may not be a member of any party, hold another state post or perform other paid work, except for scientific, educational and creative work.

4. The same person may not be appointed for more than two consecutive terms as President of the Statistical Committee.

5. The powers of the President of the Statistical Committee are terminated early on the following grounds:

   1) personal resignation;

   2) in case of impossibility to perform his (her) duties for a period of six consecutive months due to disability;

   3) in case of termination of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia or acquisition of citizenship of another state;
4) in case of the court’s verdict enters into legal force;
5) in case of recognition by the court order that being incapable or limited in capacity, missing or dead;
6) in case of deprivation of the right to occupy a certain post according to the order defined by the law;
7) in case of death.

6. The President of the Statistical Committee within the limits of his (her) competence represents the National Statistical System of the Republic of Armenia in the Republic of Armenia, other states, intergovernmental and international organizations.

7. The President of the Statistical Committee is responsible for the general management of the Statistical Committee, including its central and regional offices and territorial and functional units in conformity with statistical legislation.

8. The President of the Statistical Committee makes recommendations to the State Council on the content of five-year and annual statistical programs, as well as reports on their implementation, in accordance with the provisions defined by Articles 14 to 17 of the present Law;

9. The President of the Statistical Committee submits proposals to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia on the number of employees of the Statistical Committee.

10. The President of the Statistical Committee for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics has the right to submit to the approval of the State Council drafts of normative and legal acts of individual nature, which will be applicable for the national statistical entire system, except for the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia.

11. The President of the Statistical Committee organizes the implementation of statistical work programs.

12. The President of the Statistical Committee adopts individual and internal (local) orders within the scope of the powers granted to him by the law.

13. The President of the Statistical Committee has two deputies who are at the same time members of the State Council.
Article 9. Other Producers of Official Statistics

1. Other producers of official statistics are the organizational units of state and local self-government bodies that are exclusively or mainly dealing with the development, production and dissemination of official statistics.

2. These units mentioned in the first part of this article cannot be assigned responsibilities that are in contradiction with the fundamental principles defined.

3. Other Producers of official statistics are responsible for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics in accordance with the annual statistical program.


Article 10. State Council

1. The supreme body of governance of the national statistical system (except for the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia), including Statistical Committee, is the State Council.

2. President of the Statistical Committee holds at the same time the post of the Chairman of the State Council.

3. The State Council within the framework of the powers granted to it by law:
   1) adopts normative and individual decisions on official statistics in the cases prescribed by law;
   2) approves statistical programs;
   3) carries out control over the implementation of statistical programs;
   4) approves the reports on statistical programs implementation;
   5) approves the principles of the development, production and dissemination of official statistics;
   6) upon submission by the President of the Statistical Committee, approves the rules of procedure of the State Council and the Public Council;
   7) upon submission by the President of the Statistical Committee, approves the statute of territorial and operational units of the Statistical Committee;
   8) approves the order of data collection by the Statistical Committee (methods, coverage and periodicity);
9) carries out other powers defined by the law.

4. The State Council consists of seven members, the Chairman and six members, who are appointed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, upon submission by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia for a six-year term.

5. The positions of the members of the State Council are considered autonomous.

6. The same person may not be appointed for more than two consecutive terms as a member of the State Council.

7. Members of the State Council cannot be members of any political party, hold another public post or perform other paid work except for scientific, educational and creative work.

8. A member of the State Council may be appointed every citizen of the Republic of Armenia having higher education, with knowledge of Armenian language, at least five years of work experience (of which at least for three years position with coordination functions of units or head of unit) in the following fields:

1) macroeconomics and finances;
2) microeconomics and types of economic activity;
3) demography and sociology;
4) nature protection;
5) international statistical cooperation;
6) information technologies.

9. By the proposal of the Chairman of the State Council, the State Council shall elect from its members two Deputies of the President of the Statistical Committee, who are at the same time members of the State Council.

10. Powers of a Member of the State Council shall be terminated early on the following grounds: The powers of the Council Member can be stopped ahead of time, in case of:

1) personal resignation;
2) in case of impossibility to perform his (her) duties for a period of six consecutive months due to disability;
3) in case of termination of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia or acquisition of citizenship of another state;
4) in case of the court’s verdict enters into legal force;
5) in case of recognition by the court order that being incapable or limited in capacity or missing;
6) in case of deprivation of the right to occupy a certain post according to the order defined by the law;
7) in case of death.

11. In case of early termination of powers of a member of the State Council, the appointment shall be made for a full term of office of that member. If this period is less than one year, no new member of the State Council for that term shall be appointed.

12. Meetings of the State Council shall be convened by the Chairman of the State Council at least once a month. An extraordinary meeting may also be convened at the request of at least four members of the State Council. The meetings of the State Council are recorded.

13. The meeting has legal power if at least five members of the State Council are present at the meeting.

14. The decision is considered as adopted if more than half of the total number of members of the State Council voted for it.

15. The election of the Deputy Chairmen of the Statistical Committee is conducted by secret ballot.

16. The decisions of the State Council and the minutes of the meetings are signed by the Chairman of the State Council.

17. The relations of the members of the State Council and the staff of the statistical committee related to salaries, including the calculations of basic and supplementary salaries and the sizes, are regulated by the order prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On remuneration for persons holding state positions and public service positions".

CHAPTER 4. ADVISORY BODIES OF USERS OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

1. The Public Council of Users of Official Statistics (hereafter Public Council) is the main advisory body operating on a voluntary basis to the State Council, President of Statistical Committee and
other producers of official statistics on issues of strategic importance for official statistics of the Republic of Armenia.

2. The Public Council consists of 11 members representing users of different spheres. Public sector representatives should not form a majority in the Public Council.

3. The President of the Statistical Committee is ex officio member of the Public Council. The relevant structural unit of the Statistical Committee carries out the functions of the Secretariat of the Public Council.

4. The members of the Public Council, except the President of the Statistical Committee, are appointed and dismissed by the decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia by the submission of state bodies, the main users of official statistics - monetary, fiscal, economic, socio-demographic policy bodies, and other users of official statistics - scientific-educational institutions and non-governmental organizations.

5. Changes to the Public Council composition are made by the decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

6. The Public Council elects its chairperson from its members, who cannot be a representative of the state body.

7. The Public Council is granted with the following powers by law:

1) makes proposals on reflection of the priority information needs of society in statistical programs, implementation of statistical programs and strategic development;

2) provides advice on issues of compliance with the principles of official statistics;

3) presents the rules of procedure of the Public Council for the adoption by the State Council;

4) presents recommendations on statistical programs;

5) presents a written opinion on reports of statistical program implementation.

8. The Public Council can organize discussions and give advice on the efficiency of cooperation within the national statistical system.

**Article 12. Other Advisory Bodies**

1. The President of the Statistical Committee by the proposal of heads of structural units may set up advisory units, consisting of the given unit and key users of the field of activity of the given unit
for the purpose of strategic and methodological advisory support of the separate areas of the official statistics.

2. As a result of organized discussions within the advisory unit, the head of the respective unit of the Statistical Committee makes a record, which is submitted to the President of the Statistical Committee.

CHAPTER 5. COORDINATION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND STATISTICAL PROGRAMS

Article 13. Coordination of Activities of the National Statistical System

1. All producers of official statistics use uniform, internationally agreed concepts, definitions, classifications and methods.

2. The Statistical Committee coordinates common practices across the national statistical system, except the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia, in collaboration with other producers of official statistics.

Article 14. Preparation of National Statistical Programs

1. Statistical programs are the basis for the implementation of official statistics on the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Statistical programs include statistical information necessary for the observation of the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation of the country, taking into account the existing resource constraints, the amount of responsibilities given to statistical information providers and the cost-effectiveness.

3. Directions and measures envisaged by the statistical program take into account the comparability of the country's indicators to the international statistical standards, ensure their possible stable periodicity for disclosing trends in the long term and the proportion of resources allocated annually to the official statistics.

4. Statistical programs are developed based on the study of the demand of users of official statistics.

5. Five-year and annual statistical programs are developed as key tools for effective strategic and operational management and coordination for the entire national statistical system.
6. The Statistical Committee is responsible for developing statistical programs, in close cooperation with the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia, other producers of official statistics, users, respondents and administrative data providers.

7. The State Council adopts decisions on the inclusion of other producers, their programmed outcomes and relevant measures in statistical programs, their projected outcomes and relevant measures based on a transparent documented process, guided by the following criteria:
   1) the producer informs the State Council on the ability and willingness to comply with the provisions of this Law and the fundamental principles of official statistics as defined in Article 6 of this Law.
   2) programmed outcomes and measures do not duplicate the outcomes and measures of other producers and do not lead to increased respondent burden.

8. Measures of official statistics carried out by the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia are included in the programs according to the information provided by the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia.

9. The Statistical Committee, in close cooperation with other producers of official statistics, is responsible for presenting the annual statistical program report, including, if needed, measures for improvement.

10. Reports are submitted to the approval of the State Council. The implementation reports and the written opinion of the Public Council are of public nature.

**Article 15. Five-year Statistical Program**

1. The five-year statistical program is developed for the national statistical system and defines the strategic development directions of the official statistics of the Republic of Armenia in order to meet the current and emerging needs of users.

2. The five-year statistical program defines the conceptual approaches and development priorities of the national statistical system.
Article 16. Annual Statistical Program

1. The annual statistical program of the National Statistical System is based on the five-year statistical program covering the given period and developed annually to update the list of producers of official statistics and to provide a legal basis for the listed below and includes:
   1) all official statistics to be released;
   2) statistical surveys to be carried out by the producers of official statistics;
   3) all transmissions of administrative data or data from other existing sources to producers of official statistics;
   4) main development activities of official statistics;
   5) measures of statistical registers maintenance and development.

2. The annual statistical program includes the list of all official statistics to be released by each producer, type and frequency.

3. The annual statistical program includes descriptions of all surveys to be carried out by producers of official statistics and data collection methods for each survey, the extent of respondent inclusion, the mandatory or voluntary nature of respondents' participation, as well as the listing of the type of statistics or statistical registers for which the survey will provide the necessary information.

4. The annual statistical program includes the list of all administrative data sets that are transmitted to producers of official statistics by names, their providers, the receiving producers of official statistics, the statistics or the types of statistical registries to which that information will be provided, as well as the frequency of data transfer and the type of statistical units. In the annual statistical program, this can be replaced by a reference to a memorandum of understanding or any other agreement governing the transmission of data that contains the necessary information and is publicly available.

5. The annual statistical program includes information on developments started in the previous years and ongoing developments for the given year.

6. The annual statistical program lists all existing statistical registers and statistical registers to be created during the current year.
Article 17. Adoption of Statistical Programs

1. The Statistical Committee places drafts of five-year and annual statistical programs on its official website to receive recommendations and comments from statistical information users. The revised drafts based on the recommendations and comments are submitted to the Public Council for an opinion.

2. Upon completion of the measures defined in paragraph 1 of this Article, revised drafts of statistical programs are submitted to the State Council not later than two months before the beginning of the reporting period of the statistical program. The annual statistical program is adopted within one month after the approval of the state budget of the Republic of Armenia.

CHAPTER 6. STATISTICAL DATA COLLECTION BY PRODUCERS OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Article 18. Mandate for Data Collection

1. The producers of official statistics are entitled to select data sources, based on professional considerations, and collect the necessary data to compile official statistics directly from respondents if sufficient data are not already available in the national statistical system and they have not been obtained from databases - administrative registers, maintained by the state and local self-government bodies outside the national statistical system.

2. Data collection shall be designed with due consideration to quality of statistics, costs of data provision and response burden.

3. Irrespective of the data collection methods and sources, data obtained by producers of official statistics are processed, stored and disseminated in compliance with the provisions of the present Law. The Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia carries out the processes mentioned in this paragraph in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia" and the normative legal acts adopted on its basis.

4. Producers of official statistics collect data envisaged by the statistical program, including from administrative registers, through statistical documents (statistical reports, survey questionnaires, etc.) in the form prescribed by them.
5. Forms of documents include the volume of statistical data, addresses and dates, other data on the activity of statistical information providers.

6. Within the framework of statistical confidentiality provisions defined in Chapter 7 of this Law, the producers of official statistics may transmit data and metadata within the national statistical system to avoid duplication of data collection and improve the quality of official statistics.

**Article 19. Relations with Respondents in Data Collection Process**

1. Respondents are informed about the purpose and scope of the statistical surveys and the measures to ensure confidentiality.

2. The participation in statistical surveys is compulsory for statistical units, with the exception of individuals (regardless of citizenship) and households. The involvement of individuals (regardless of citizenship), households and all other respondents in a given statistical survey can be declared compulsory in the annual statistical program for all or some of the respondents, and for all or some of the questions. Biometric personal data can be collected exclusively with the consent of individuals (regardless of citizenship).

3. Within the framework of the statistical survey, information should be accurate, and timely, in the required format and free of charge. The producer of official statistics decides to compensate respondent households for participating in a specific type of sample survey that creates significant burden on them. For the Statistical Committee, the State Council defines the list of these surveys.

4. The producers of official statistics are entitled to further work with respondents if a response is not received on time, or if the data is found to have discrepancies or omissions.

**Article 20. Access to Administrative Data**

1. State and local self-government bodies are obliged to provide the producers of official statistics, free of charge, with data in their possession at the level of detail necessary for the production of official statistics, as well as with the metadata that enable assessing data quality.

2. The provision of information containing confidentiality defined by other laws is implemented by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, except for cases foreseen by Paragraph 4 of the present article.
3. If the providers of administrative data plan to carry out a major revision in their data collection or processing or develop a new data collection in a way that may affect data provided for official statistics, they shall consult the Statistical Committee and, where appropriate, the other producers of official statistics, in advance of the decision.


Article 21. Censuses

1. Census is an operation that provides data on the size and structure of the population, some social and demographic characteristics, housing, economic units, buildings or farms based on exhaustive enumeration.

2. Censuses carried out in the Republic of Armenia are population, agricultural and economic censuses. Population and agricultural censuses are conducted at least every 10 years.

3. The decision on conducting a census that defines the timeframe for carrying out the census is adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia no later than two years prior to the commencement of the census.

4. At least one year before the census, a pilot census is carried out to implement the testing of methodological, organizational principles, materials for machine processing applications and technology.

5. Temporary operational units are created to prepare and conduct censuses, whose composition and structure are approved by the individual decision of the State Council.

6. Republican and marz commissions of censuses are created to support the preparation and conduction of censuses.

7. Censuses are conducted in the period of conducting the census by the temporary staff involved and instructed in the temporary operating units by the Statistical Committee, according to the order defined by the individual decision of the State Council.

8. The time-frames, programs (questionnaires), the areas of conducting pilot censuses, the composition of republican and marz commissions are approved by the normative decision of the
Government of the Republic of Armenia, and the documents (questionnaires, organizational and instructional, methodological and other documents) are approved by the State Council.

9. The documents mentioned in paragraph 8 of this Article may not include issues unforeseen for statistical purposes. Census data are used exclusively for statistical purposes.

10. The Statistical Committee is responsible for preparing, conducting, receiving and publishing aggregated data of censuses that is obliged to ensure:

1) the objectivity, scientific soundness of the census program (questionnaire), its compliance with international norms (methodological guidelines) and standards;

2) publicity and accessibility of summarized results derived from the processing of the census materials;

3) confidentiality of personal information.

11. Censuses are compulsory for physical and legal persons. Physical and legal persons are required to provide accurate and comprehensive answers (information) to all questions of the questionnaire.

12. State and local self-government bodies within their jurisdiction are responsible for supporting in the proper organization of preparation and conducting of the census.

13. The final results of the censuses are used and published only in aggregated and grouped form, and obtained personal data are confidential and are not subject to disclosure. Employees of the Statistical Committee (hereinafter employees) who have the personal data on physical and legal persons are prohibited to transmit the content of the completed census documents to another person (s). In case of infringement of the order of use of initial (personal) data of the census, the employees of the Statistical Committee shall be liable in accordance with the order prescribed by the law of the Republic of Armenia.

14. Personal materials (including data) obtained from the census shall not be used by any authority or international organization for any investigation or preliminary investigation, surveillance, legal proceedings, administrative decision-making or other similar processes involving natural or legal persons.
15. Refusals to answer the questions of the census questionnaire, except for questions concerning nationality, language and religion, entails administrative liability according to the order prescribed by the Republic of Armenia law.

16. The order for maintaining of the census documents is approved by an individual decision of the State Council.

17. Funding of the census is made at the expense of the state budget of the Republic of Armenia and other means not prohibited by law. The cost estimates for timely and full implementation of all measures of preparation, conducting, processing of materials and publication of the census results are approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

18. Census data can be calculated based on statistical surveys, administrative or other sources, or at the same time based on two options.

19. The present law is fully applicable to all works related to the census.

Article 22. Statistical registers

1. Statistical registers refer to lists of statistical units and their characteristics, including identifiers that are necessary for statistical production.

2. The National Statistical Office may establish and maintain statistical registers, to be used exclusively for statistical purposes.

CHAPTER 7. STATISTICAL CONFIDENTIALITY

Article 23. Data Subject to Statistical Confidentiality Principle

1. Individual data subject to confidentiality principle, as defined in the provision 6 of Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the present Law, are those that allow or may allow to identify statistical units, either directly or indirectly, thereby disclosing individual information. The following aggregated data are subject to statistical confidentiality:

1) aggregates composed of 1 to 3 units, where the unit is a natural or legal person, if one of these units could be identified indirectly, thereby disclosing information about this unit. Aggregates
composed of more than 3 units may be declared confidential by the decision of the State Council if required to ensure statistical confidentiality;

2) information that is state, service, and other secret protected by law;

3) the provision of non-disclosure or other non-dissemination of information does not apply in case, when they, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, are the information reflecting natural or other monopoly activity, non-disclosure (non-dissemination) of which will have a major impact on maintaining the principles of statistical information completeness;

4) data that are accessible to the public from other sources are not considered statistical confidentiality.

2. Statistics relating to the state and local self-government bodies, the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia is not protected by the principle of statistical confidentiality, if it is not recognized as a state, service or other secret protected by law.

3. Individual data collected for statistical purposes should not be used by anybody or international organization in investigations, preliminary investigations, surveillance, judicial proceedings, administrative decisions or other similar processes related to natural or legal persons.

**Article 24. Secure Data Processing and Storage**

1. All producers of official statistics provide protection of individual data, confidential aggregated indicators and statistics, as well as statistics protection prior to its dissemination and undertake necessary regulatory, administrative, technical and organizational measures to prevent access to such data by unauthorized persons.

2. The producers of official statistics may process and store individual data with identifiers for the time necessary for statistical purposes. In Statistical Committee, this is done in accordance with the order defined by the State Council, and other producers implement it by order defined by them. All original data collection forms that include identifiers are destroyed as soon as they are no longer needed for statistical purposes.
Article 25. Access to Individual Data of the National Statistical System

1. Producers of official statistics do not disclose individual data to users, except as outlined in Paragraph 2 of this Article and Article 26 in cases on public use files and access to individual data for research purposes.

2. Producers of official statistics may produce and release to the public sets of anonymized individual data only if the data have been processed so that identifiers have been removed or natural or legal persons cannot be identified in any way, either directly or indirectly.

3. The Statistical Committee is entitled to receive from other producers of official statistics individual data, including identifiers based on an agreement or memorandum of understanding signed between the parties.

4. The Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia and other producers of official statistics may receive the following individual data from the Statistical Committee exclusively for statistical purposes in their respective area of competence in official statistics:

   1) data without identifiers that allow a natural or legal person to be identified;

   2) individual data (statistical units with identifiers) exclusively from statistical registers, defined in the annual statistical program;

5. Data transmission is carried out based on an agreement or memorandum of understanding signed between the parties.

Article 26. Access to Confidential Data for Research Purposes

1. For research purposes, based on the application submitted by the researchers to the Statistical Committee and by the decision of the State Council, data containing statistical confidentiality may, in exceptional cases, be provided or published by the Statistical Committee in the anonymous form, not allowing direct or indirect disclosure of individual data.

2. The data are limited to the information necessary for the research purposes.

3. The data is used exclusively for research purposes, cannot be transmitted to other persons, cannot be published in the any anonymous form at the individual level and cannot be compared with the individual data obtained from other sources, all sources of instructional materials are mentioned, and those anonymous data are destroyed after the surveys.
Article 27. Confidentiality Commitments

1. Confidentiality commitments shall be signed upon taking up appropriate functions in official statistics by:

1) all staff of the Statistical Committee and other producers of official statistics, including temporary staff;

2) all persons involved in the census operations;

3) other persons, who have access to data protected by statistical confidentiality principle.

2. The responsibility for maintaining the statistical confidentiality by the subjects mentioned in the paragraph 1 of this Article is indefinite.

3. The provisions of this Article are applied to the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia" and the normative legal acts adopted on its basis.

Article 28. Subcontracting

1. The producers of official statistics may subcontract parts of tasks of statistical production to a third party only when the full protection of statistical confidentiality can be ensured.

2. Third parties use and maintain the data exclusively for the operations and only according to conditions and duration defined in the subcontract.

3. The relations between parties are regulated by the agreement concluded between the parties and by the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia.

CHAPTER 8. QUALITY OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Article 29. Quality Commitment

1. The producers of official statistics are committed to continually assessing and improving the quality of official statistics in terms of relevance, accuracy, reliability, timeliness, punctuality, transparency, clarity, coherence and comparability.
2. To guarantee quality, official statistics is developed, produced and disseminated on the basis of common standards and harmonized methods on the scope, concepts, definitions, units and classifications of official statistics. This is done in compliance with the fundamental principles laid down in Article 6 of the present Law and internationally agreed statistical standards and guidelines.

3. To improve the quality of official statistics, the producers of official statistics are entitled to edit and validate data, combine data from different sources, carry out record linking and matching of individual data exclusively for statistical purposes and use statistical estimation methods to fill gaps.

4. The producers of official statistics document, in a standardized way, sources and methods used in the production process, as well as the resulting data sets. Users are kept informed about the sources and methods of statistical production and quality of statistical outputs through metadata.

**Article 30. Quality Assessment**

1. The producers of official statistics regularly hold discussions with users regarding the quality of official statistics.

2. The producers of official statistics seek feedback from respondents to improve the quality of data.

3. The producers of official statistics collaborate with the scientific and educational institutions to assess and improve statistical methodology.

4. Assessments of the institutional environment, processes and outputs of the national statistical system are also carried out by external experts, including international experts, exclusively in accordance with the fundamental principles of official statistics and requirements of international statistical standards.

**CHAPTER 9. DISSEMINATION**

**Article 31. Dissemination of Statistical Data**

1. Official statistics is disseminated in a timely and punctual manner in full compliance with Articles 31-32 and the fundamental principles in Article 6 of the present Law.
2. Statistical Committee and other producers of official statistics develop and publish an advance release calendar that indicates the planned month and dates for the releases of official statistics. Any expected divergence from the advance release calendar is communicated to the public before the planned release date. A new date for the release is set within reasonable time and made public.

3. Dissemination of official statistics is accompanied by metadata and explanatory comments, and access is provided through publications at official websites of the Statistical Committee and other producers of official statistics.

4. Official statistics is clearly distinguished from other statistical data when released.

5. Errors discovered in released official statistics are corrected, and the corrections are released and communicated to users at the earliest possible time.

6. Users are entitled to use official statistics and the relevant metadata in their own products with indication of the data source.

**Article 32. Dissemination Policy**

1. The State Council establishes for the Statistical Committee and other producers of official statistics:

   1) a coordinated dissemination policy with transparent procedures to be applied across the national statistical system;

   2) a unified terminology for dissemination of official statistics.

2. Preliminary releases of statistical data that will be subject to later revision by the producers of official statistics are clearly labeled as such.

3. Major revisions due to changes in methods are notified publicly within reasonable terms.
CHAPTER 10. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Article 33. Participation in International Cooperation and Data Transmission

1. The Statistical Committee and other producers of official statistics, in their respective areas of competence, actively participate in international work to develop and implement statistical standards and guidelines.

2. The Statistical Committee coordinates all technical cooperation activities in official statistics, as well as all assessments initiated by international organizations that concern official statistics, irrespective of the statistical domain and producer.

3. The Statistical Committee coordinates transmission of official statistics data to international and other organizations.

4. The provisions of the present chapter do not apply to the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia.

CHAPTER 11. RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATING OFFICIAL STATISTICS LEGISLATION

Article 34. Responsibility of statistical information providers and officials of the body implementing official statistics

1. Violation of the legislation on official statistics leads to administrative or criminal responsibility for officials of the body implementing official statistics, in accordance with the order established by law.

2. Providers of statistical reports are brought to responsibility, as specified by law, if they fail to submit (regardless of date) statistical reports necessary for observations in the prescribed time limit or in violation of the established order (unreliable data, their incomplete reflection and other distortions).

3. The actions of the officials of the body implementing official statistics may be appealed in accordance with the order specified by law.
CHAPTER 12. FINAL PART AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 35. Entry into Force

1. The present Law enters into force on the day on which the newly elected President of the Republic takes office.


1. Before the adoption of the relevant legal acts by the State Council, as specified by present Law, the legal acts regulating the field of state statistics operate.

2. After the entry into force of this Law, the President of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia and acting members of the State Council continue to serve until the end of their term of office.

S. Sargsyan

President of the Republic of Armenia

March 28, 2018

Հ 0194-Ն