

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 angels of statistical triangle” having different dispositions, is of great importance, especially from viewpoint of perception requirements “communication skills leveling” by national and international levels.

The National Statistical Service of RA (NSS RA) would like to thank all the respondents who have supplied information for this statistical publication and, from the above mentioned considerations, welcomes any comments and suggestions from the respondents and taxpayers, as statistical users, for the future developments of statistical publication.

You are kindly asked to provide your comments and suggestions to the Public Relations, Marketing and Statistical Information Dissemination Division of NSS RA concerning the future development of the publications.

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Symbols

Case is missing	-
Data are missing	...
Negligible magnitude	0.0
Indicator is not being calculated	X
The data have been revised	◇

In certain cases the slight differences between the sum and result are caused by rounding the data.

INTRODUCTION

This bulletin aims to provide complete and comprehensive information on poverty and food security in the Republic of Armenia.

According to the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and Plan of Action accepted at the World Food Summit in 1996 *food security is achieved, if all people at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life*. By contrast, *food insecurity exists when people lack secure access to sufficient amount of safe and nutritious food for normal growth, development as well as for being active and healthy*.

Food insecurity could be conditioned by the unavailability of food, insufficient purchasing power of the population, etc., which are also the main causes for insufficient utilization of food (malnutrition) in the household. Food insecurity could be chronic, seasonal or transitory.

The definitions of food security and food insecurity are important, as the main objective of carrying out food security analysis is to determine not so much those, who are adequately nourished but to determine who, what types of households, what groups of population do not receive sufficient amount of food and why not.

Answers to these questions will allow strategy makers to evaluate the food security situation in the Republic, as well as to develop measures targeted at improving the situation. In particular, the latter has been reflected in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (GOA Decree No 994 – Ն of 08.08.2003), which aims to reduce poverty in the Republic and which implies to improve the food security situation.

The key issues of food security presented in the bulletin are as follows:

- ***the social-economic environment***, which characterizes the situation with availability of food, its accessibility and utilization (consumption)
- ***prices and price indexes***, which characterize the purchasing power of households through consumer prices and price indexes of food products and the stimulation of production through the prices on the agricultural production means,
- ***availability of food***, which characterizes the physical availability of food in the country irrespective of whether it was received through production, change in stocks or exportation/importation and humanitarian assistance. Main factors influencing the availability of food are prices, development of production and trade, production infrastructure and the weather conditions.
- ***accessibility of food***, which characterizes the correlation between food security and poverty, and, particularly, the availability of sufficient quantity of resources at the households and for their members, correspondence of the structure of consumed food products with the requirements of adequate nutrition and etc. Another factor influencing accessibility of food is the location of households and their access to markets.
- ***utilization (consumption) of food***, which characterizes the use of food in compliance with biological and social conditions.