

FOREWORD

Establishment of liberal economic system construction launched back in 90-ies of the previous century in Armenia was essentially a process of inclusive redistribution of values (including spiritual) created by that period, both across the country and human values.

Being in the epicenter of transition period, Armenia encounters the need to solve, on the one hand, goals of building liberal economic system, enrooting democratic culture and formation of civil society, and, on the other, to ensure multifarious, divergent and harmonious integration into the international community in the circumstances of growing rates of universal globalization and internationalization of markets.

The burden of such problems anticipating their solution becomes is aggravated particularly as a consequence of polarization of population by incomes, thus in the circumstances of poverty and social tension.

The “Social Snapshot and Poverty in the Republic of Armenia” report tends to contribute to process of searching solutions to the problems, and it is with this hope that the National Statistical Service of Armenia presents the Report to the public.

S. Mnatsakanyan

President

National Statistical Service

Republic of Armenia

Development of the National Report “Social Snapshot and Poverty in the Republic of Armenia” has been carried out under the funding by Social Investment Fund of Armenia in the framework of Development Credit Project of the World Bank, and on the basis of the outcomes of Integrated Household Survey carried out by the National Statistical Service of Armenia (H. Petrosyan, Program Coordinator, Member of the State Council on Statistics of RA, Mrs. J. Magluchants, Head of Household Survey Division). This work is actually the second phase and logical continuation of the household surveys carried out by National Statistical Service of Armenia.

Independent experts have also participated in development and carrying out the Household Survey and this Report. Mr. G. Terzikyan has been in charge of the computer and software programming works, supported by A. Arushanyan, programmer. Mr. Armen Keshishyan has performed the translation of the National Report into English.

The National Statistical Service of Armenia owes gratitude for the work performed by experts of the World Bank whose advisory, professional and technical assistance enabled the Service to organize and implement this integrated household survey. We owe particular gratitude to Mrs. Jislaine Delaine and Mr. Ruslan Yemtsov, Ph.D. whose experience and knowledge have proved extremely useful in preparation and carrying out this investigation.

Republic of Armenia

Main Indicators

The Republic of Armenia is situated in southwestern part of Asia.

Capital city	Yerevan
Land area, square km	29743
Including	
Forests, %	12,7
Water surface, %	5,6
Agricultural lands, %	46,8
Other lands, %	34,9
Population ¹ , including	3803 thousand (01.01.2000)
Urban	2536 thousand
Rural	1267 thousand
Population growth rate	0.1%
Currency	Dram, 1USD = 535.06 dram (average annual exchange rate in 1999)
Religion	Christianity, Armenian Apostolic Church
GDP ² per capita	485 USD (1999)

¹ The estimates of the number of permanent residents are based on the 1979 Census data. These data do not include intensive changes in population taken place in 90-ies in view of lack of relevant accounting and recording systems; in particular, population evacuated after the earthquake, refugees and forcefully deported people caused by Karabakh conflict, entailed by softening passport regime and absence of refugee accounting systems on border posts, resulting absence of reliable data on migrants.

² GDP – gross domestic product. GDP in Armenia is considered as a comparative macroeconomic indicator.