Bangladesh - Economic Census 2013

BANGLADESH BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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Overview

Identification

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Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

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2013-11

Overview

ABSTRACT
Economic Census is the complete enumeration of the full set of economic units belonging to a given population or universe at a particular time with respect to well defined economic characteristics. It is literally the whole process of collecting, compiling, processing, analyzing and publishing economic data pertaining to all economic units in a country. It is a well-structured undertaking which provides timely, reliable, accurate and detailed data on the size and distribution of economic units of different categories. The economic census is the primary source of basic benchmark statistics, covering the whole gamut of non-farm economic activities of the country. The history of Economic Census is not as old as that of Population Census. In many countries, Population Census is the oldest census undertaking followed by Agriculture Census; and, at a later period Economic Census has been undertaken. The necessity of Economic Census or Business Census was felt with the increase of non-farm economic activities of the countries. Data collected from establishments at different tier's of administration generally help policy makers to pursue programmes for employment generation, assess private sector requirement and boost up business and industries.

The Bangladesh economy has been growing fast over the last two decades. New economic activities like shipbuilding, software development, event management, security services, mobile banking services and so on are widely taking place. Agro based economy has been rapidly transforming to a mixed one with considerable income and employment opportunities. Currently, the service sector dominates the economy with lion's share in GDP. Out of total GDP, service sector constitutes 49.30 percent, industry 31.99 percent and agriculture only 18.70 percent. To measure the changing pattern of Bangladesh economy, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) of the Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) has been conducting Economic Census since 1986 and, meanwhile, three rounds have been completed.

The first Economic Census titled 'Census on Non-farm Economic Activities and Disabled Persons' was conducted during December 27-29, 1986 throughout the country. It covered both establishments and households with economic activities and kept agricultural households outside the purview of the economic census.

The second Economic Census of the country was held in two phases: the first phase during 27-31 May 2001 in the urban areas and the second during 20-26 April 2003 in rural areas. It covered all non-farm economic activities both in urban and rural areas. Three types of economic units such as permanent and temporary establishments and premise based household economic activities were covered.

The third Economic Census was conducted during 31 March to 31 May 2013 across the country. Data collection was carried out in two phases: first phase during 15-24 April 2013 in 37 districts and second phase during 15-24 May 2013 in 27 districts.

One of the fundamental features of the census was listing operation i.e. all units irrespective of establishment or household, either permanent or temporary, were enlisted prior to the main census. Only economic units, except crop agriculture, were separated from the lists and enumerated in the main census. It may be mentioned that this step has contributed to reducing the census cost considerably and helped ensure optimum use of public resources. The census has covered both economic households and all temporary and permanent establishments.

1.2 Objectives

The main objective of the Census was to investigate the nature of structural change occurring in the economy over the last decade, and to provide comprehensive statistical information for economic and social development planning and policy making.

The other objectives are:

• To generate statistics on types of activities, persons engaged (working proprietors and partners, full-time and part-time employees, family workers, classified by sex), year of establishment of the non-agricultural economic unit by type of ownership and so on.

• To make available sampling frame for planning and designing surveys of nonagricultural economic activities in between two economic censuses.

• To facilitate determination of the relative contribution of non-agricultural sector to the economy.

• To provide benchmark data for rebasing and updating the national accounts aggregates and other economic activities of the country.

• To prepare an up to date directory of industries and business enterprises for urban and rural areas according to the Bangladesh Standard Industrial Classification (BSIC-2009) which was prepared following the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC)-Rev.4;

• To observe economic activities performed by the households in the informal sector.

• To provide disaggregated statistics on various economic activities down to Mauza level.

KIND OF DATA
Census/enumeration data [cen]

Scope

NOTES
Economic Census 2013 has covered all non-farm economic units- permanent & temporary establishments and household based economic activities. However, agricultural establishments such as farm based livestock, poultry and fishery were also included in this census, which were not covered in the earlier economic censuses. In addition to economic activities carried out in the household, activities operated outside the household such as hawking, operating own rickshaw/push cart/van/easy bike/other transports, street vending etc. were included within the purview of the household based economic activities while these activities were included as temporary establishments in 2001 & 03. Geographically, the Census has covered the entire area of the country except territorial enclaves. It may be noted that the scope, coverage, concepts & definitions and questionnaire of the census have been vetted by the Technical Committee.

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
Thus, the scope and coverage of the Economic Census 2013 are different from that of 1986 and 2001 & 03. Therefore, the findings of the Economic Census 2013 would not be fully comparable with that of earlier censuses particularly for the temporary economic units and household based economic units.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
BANGLADESH BUREAU OF STATISTICS	STATISTICS AND INFORMATICS DIVISION, MINISTRY OF PLANNING

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Sampling

No content available

Questionnaires

Overview

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	**End**	**Cycle**
2013-03-31	2013-05-31	N/A

Data Collection Mode

Other [oth]

Data Collection Notes

Training and data collection are the fundamental components of a census. Comprehensive training was imparted to the census personnel to make them efficient in their respective tasks. The whole country, 64 districts including city corporations, were divided into 86 areas and named as Census Districts during first zonal operation.

The Census Districts were segmented into smaller areas to ensure intensive supervision and monitoring, so that quality data collection could be ensured. The 86 Census Districts were divided into 2,073 zones on the basis of the listing operation to make sure that the census would be managed properly and enumeration would be done accurately. The zones were divided into 67,847 Enumeration Areas (EA), - each consisting of around 150 economic units, irrespective of household or establishment. An interviewer was appointed for each EA and a supervisor was designated for supervision of the work of a group of 6 to 7 interviewers. To carry out the final data collection, a total of 67,036 interviewers, 12,175 supervisors, 2,073 zonal officers and 86 District Census Coordinators (DCCs) were appointed. Interviewers and supervisors were hired from the local educated unemployed youths; zonal officers; and DCCs were assigned from BBS officials.

To ensure quality control of data collection, four tiers' supervisions were applied. Supervisors were assigned for overseeing the activities of Interviewers, Zonal officer for Supervisors and DCCs for Zonal Officers. Several independent teams comprising of the senior officials of BBS and SID were assigned the responsibility for supervision and monitoring the overall quality of the census. In addition to that, extra measures were taken to ensure the quality of census by engaging temporarily some of the high officials- Deputy Secretaries and Joint Secretaries- from the Ministry of Public Administration.

In order to have quality data and to provide complete guidelines on census operations to the census personnel, a two days training programme were conducted. DCCs (Master Trainers) were trained on census questionnaire and other census techniques by the core team of economic census in Dhaka. Zonal Officers were imparted training at district headquarters by DCCs and Supervisors & Interviewers by Zonal Officers at Upazila/Union level. A verbatim training manual with detailed instructions for filling in questionnaires and other field operations was provided to all trainees to ensure uniform training. Hands-on-exercise on the technique of data collection was demonstrated at the field at all levels of training.

After the training, enumeration was done in two phases- first phase during 15-24 April 2013 in 37 districts and second phase during 15-24 May 2013 in 27 districts. To ensure a smooth operation, a central census control room was set up at headquarters of BBS that kept functioning round the clock. Besides, control rooms were also established at different levels at regional, district, upazila offices and union parishad to meet any emergency instantly. After the completion of enumeration, census books were preserved at Upazila Statistical Offices with a view to making editing and coding at local level. Only Tally Sheets- summary sheet of a census book of few important questions- were brought to headquarters for preparing the preliminary report.

Questionnaires

Data Collectors

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
BANGLADESH BUREAU OF STATISTICS	BBS	STATISTICS AND INFORMATICS DIVISION, MINISTRY OF PLANNING

Supervision

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Data Processing

No content available

Data Appraisal

No content available