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**Regional initiatives: Economic statistics: Regional  
programme for the improvement of economic statistics in  
Asia and the Pacific**

**SNA as a basis of development of economic statistics in  
Kazakhstan<sup>1</sup>**

Prior to the acquisition of the independence (before 1991), in the soviet period, state statistics in Kazakhstan had a fundamentally different methodological basis with the principles of planned economy. Therefore, creation of the SNA is an important achievement of the national official statistics.

SNA contains fundamental concepts and classifications for the whole statistical system and thus serves as a coordinator. In Kazakhstan the role of SNA is wider. This can be seen on the results of the implementation of long-term national statistics development programs. During the period from 1992 to 2008 four such programs were adopted and implemented.

During the first long-term state statistics development program for 1992-1996, creation of branches of statistics needed for formation of the SNA has begun. These are price statistics, foreign trade statistics and balance of payments. At that stage, the needs of the SNA had determined the composition of newly created statistical system. Important results of the implementation of first program are the introduction of nine current accounts of the SNA and calculations of gross domestic product (GDP) by three methods, as well as gross regional product (GRP) by the production method.

At the second stage of the official statistics reforming (until 1998), the needs of the SNA had an impact on acceleration of the development of macroeconomic statistics in the country. Formation of the balance of

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payments was transferred to the National Bank. The use of the monetary and government finance statistics in the sector accounts of the system continually expanded.

The SNA had a particular influence on the development of business statistics, since it requires the comparable data on all branches of the economy. In the first decade of the republic's independence when the market economy had been creating, the number of enterprises in the country was growing rapidly. Under the new conditions the formerly used methodology of data collection and processing was not effective. As a result of this, the problem of weak coordination between various statistical surveys of enterprises had arisen. The quality of business statistics did not meet the requirements of the SNA. This fact prompted the creation of the register of enterprises and the transition to international system of classification (NACE rev. 1, NACE rev. 1.1, NACE rev. 2).

In the frameworks of the third long-term official statistics development program there was further extensive development of all areas of statistics, including the SNA. Since 2001 the formation of a financial account, and later – of other accumulation accounts has begun. In all areas of statistics the application of various methods of non-observed economy accounting was expanding. During this period, the coordinating role of the SNA for the short-term statistics has grown. As a result, the methods of calculating the output and indices of physical volume by branches of economy were improved.

By the beginning of the implementation of the fourth long-term program the national system of official statistics in general corresponded to requirements of a market economy. These results were reached with extensive advisory support of foreign experts.

Recognizing the importance and objectivity of international assessments for foreign investors and the country's image, Kazakhstan was one of the first CIS countries which subscribed to General, and then to Special Data Dissemination Standard of the IMF. Kazakhstan was the first country in the CIS, where the Global assessment of the statistical system was conducted.

In total, over the past years 6 international missions assessing the development of the official statistics of Kazakhstan were conducted by such organizations as the Eurostat, the IMF, the World Bank, and the United Nations statistics divisions.

The latest international assessment of the SNA was presented by the UNECE in April 2010 at an international meeting in Geneva. This assessment reveals the current stage of implementation of the SNA in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central and Middle Asia. 18 indicators demonstrating what methods, accounts and balances of SNA are already implemented were chosen for the assessment. Kazakhstan met 17 evaluation criteria out of 18. The level achieved by Kazakhstan with regard to the core set of economic statistics is shown in the table below.

**Draft core set of economic statistics (\* denotes inclusion in the October 2009 ESCAP Assessment Framework)**

Category of statistics	Timeliness	Frequency (Kazakhstan)
<b>Prices and costs</b>		
Consumer price index	M	monthly
Producers price index	M	monthly
External merchandise trade price indexes	M	monthly
Commodity price index	M	monthly
Labour costs index/Wage index	M	monthly
Earnings	M	monthly
Terms of trade		
Exchange rates	M	monthly
Purchasing power parities		according to plans of international organizations
<b>Demand and output</b>		
GDP (production) nominal and real	Q, A	quarterly, annual
GDP (expenditure) nominal and real (including implicit price indexes for GDE and components)	Q, A	quarterly, annual
External trade – merchandise	Q, A	quarterly, annual
External trade – services	Q, A	quarterly, annual
Short term indicator (STI) – industry output	M	monthly
Economy structure statistics	Q, A	quarterly, annual
STI – consumer demand	Q, A	quarterly, annual
STI – inventories	Q, A	quarterly, annual
STI – fixed investment	Q, A	quarterly, annual
Productivity	Q, A	quarterly, annual
<b>Income and wealth</b>		
Integrated national accounts for the total economy	A	annual
Institutional sector accounts	A	annual
Balance of payments	Q	quarterly
International Investment Position		

Income distribution	A	annual
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### Money and Banking

Assets/liabilities of banks	M	monthly
Broad money and credit aggregates	M	monthly
Interest rate statistics	M	monthly

### Government

General government operations	M	monthly
General government debt	Q	quarterly

### Labour market

Labour supply		
Labour demand – employment/unemployment	Q, A	quarterly, annually
Hours worked	M	monthly

### Natural Assets and the Environment

Natural assets		
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However, extensive development in the preceding period could not provide the high quality of statistics, including those in the SNA. Therefore, in 2010, the Strategic Plan for the Development of the SNA for the period until 2013 was developed. It includes the introduction of a new international standard SNA 2008. It is assumed that all changes and additions which directly affect to the calculation of GDP will be adapted to national conditions and put into practice. This year experimental calculations of two new items: expenditures on arming and science-research works have been carried out.

During developing a strategic plan of SNA development, it was determined which new and improved data will be required from other branches of statistics. These needs of the SNA are formalized in the form of tables showing the list of data and time of their submission. In addition, activities on the revision and implementation of new statistical observations have been identified. As a result, the SNA development plan has grown into a plan of interdepartmental activities.

The goals of the Strategic Plan for the Development of the SNA are not limited to the introduction of amendments and additions according to the SNA 2008. It is planned to revise the current practice of calculations in the SNA. This is evidenced by the following activities of the plan:

- Introduction of more detailed calculations in the SNA. This primarily concerns the calculation of GDP by final use method which will improve providing the programs in the social sphere with necessary

information. Specification of the “Supply-Use” and “Input-Output” tables will increase two or three times for the purposes of macroeconomic analysis and modeling;

- Revision and implementation of new statistical observations to improve data sources for the SNA. In particular, to increase the coverage in the financial sector, the sector of non-profit organizations serving the households (NPOSHs) and the non-observed economy (in the fields of education and health).

A broad program of activities on development of the whole system of official statistics is envisaged in the Statistical Capacity Building (STATCAP) project with the World Bank. In order to develop the SNA, the transition to double deflation of gross value added will be implemented. Accordingly, the practice of calculation of a number of basic indicators will change: output, intermediate consumption, indexes of physical volume, deflators, etc.

Along with that, Kazakhstan is interested in participating in other international and regional projects aimed to improving the economic statistics.

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