

Creation Of User-Friendly Bases for Microdata Collected in the Russian Federation for Statistical Purposes.

Legal provisions, which stipulate providing data to users, are stated in Federal Law on Personal Data, adopted on June 27, 2006 and Federal Law On Business Accounting, adopted on November, 21 1996.

Federal Law On Personal Data regulates relations involved in processing of personal data, implying any information on a certain individual. According to this Law, legal entities and individuals, that carry out personal data processing, must ensure confidentiality of those data. However, if personal data are depersonalized, there is no need for confidentiality. Personal data processing for statistical and other scientific purposes is carried out upon condition of obligatory data depersonalization.

Therefore, the above mentioned Law provides legal ground for creation of a base for individual microdata, which must be depersonalized. It is important to note that information on individuals, characterizing their activities as non-incorporated sole entrepreneurs, is also related to personal data.

Whereas the Law on Personal Data has been adopted recently, the practice of Rosstat on individual microdata bases formation is being developed now.

In the first place, a system of an open access for researchers to household budget surveys data (including microdata) will be developed. This system will assure data anonymizing, editing and imputation in order to prevent personal identification of the data; access for users, including Internet access, microdata saving in users' PCs. It is expected to store statistical information on 50 000 households for annual data and 2 years quarterly data. The software for this system should be developed in 2006, and Rosstat will start user service before the end of 2007.

It is expected in 2007-2008 a similar system of an access to employment survey microdata will be developed. A base for primary non-personalized data, describing natural movement and migration of population is being developed,

which is necessary for analysis of a demographic situation. The microdata of the Russian Population Census – 2010 will also be open to research community.

Federal Law on Accounting stipulates the provision of accounting reports publicity which obliges open joint-stock companies, banks, insurance companies, exchanges, investment funds to publish their annual accounting reports. Publicity of accounting reports implies its publication in newspapers and journals, and transferring it to state statistical agencies for providing to users concerned.

The same Law states that all organizations (except for state-financed) submit their annual accounting reports to their founders, shareholders or their property owners, and to state statistical agencies according to their registration place for providing it to users concerned.

Therefore, statistical agencies have accounting reports microdata of enterprises and they may provide them to users. However, they may only provide those microdata on open joint-stock companies and investment funds, because they do not carry out processing of such microdata on banks and insurance companies. This work may be carried out for a fee on a contractual basis.

Nevertheless, the Law on Accounting does not clearly state whether microdata of non-financial enterprises that are not joint-stock companies (they may be state or municipal unitary enterprises, closed joint-stock companies, limited liability companies etc.) may be provided to users. This uncertainty is expected to be cleared when drafting a new revision of the Federal Law on Accounting.

As concerns other types of information that Rosstat collects from enterprises and organizations, the Russian legislation does not contain any provisions on depersonalization of data for providing them to users. Therefore, with regard to this type of information, Rosstat follows the principle of the UN official statistics: personal data on legal entities are confidential and may be used only for statistical purposes. Depersonalizing of those data is not carried out and microdata are not provided to users.

Thus, Rosstat guarantees confidentiality of information obtained from respondents in forms of state statistical observation. Transfer of this information to

the third persons is possible only given the written consent of persons who furnished the information (except for the cases, stipulated by law). An exception is a case of supply of microdata at the request of courts and law enforcement authorities.

The possibility of information transfer to other persons given the consent of the information owner is stipulated by the provisions of the Law on Commercial Secrecy, which prohibits disclosure and transfer of information that constitutes a commercial secret to the third persons without the consent thereto of its holder.

In view of this possibility, Rosstat interviewed over 72 000 large-scale and medium-sized enterprises in 2000. The interview enquired their consent on providing of the information obtained from them for publications or use by state administration bodies. The responses were received only from 1/3 of the total number of respondents, moreover, 1/3 of the responses were with denial. Therefore, Rosstat cancelled data dissemination with the consent thereto of the information holder.

It is important to note that several data types on enterprises are not confidential according to the Russian legislation. The federal Law on Commercial Secrecy fixes a list of data that may not constitute a commercial secret. This small list includes in particular the following data:

- available in constituent documents of legal entities, documents confirming the making of entries on legal entities and individual entrepreneurs in the relevant state registers;

- regarding the composition of property of state-run or municipal unitary enterprises, and government agencies and on utilization by them of funds of corresponding budgets;

- on the numbers, make-up of employees, system of labour remuneration, terms and conditions of labour, including labour safety measures, on the indices of on-the-job injuries and occupational diseases, on availability of vacancies;

- on debts of employers in paying wages and salaries and on other social payments.

At present Rosstat provides to users administrative data, obtained from offices that conduct state registration of legal entities, with codes assigned by Rosstat. However, it does not provide other above mentioned information, which may not constitute a commercial secret, though the law does not prohibit it. We need to bear in mind that the demand for this data is not big owing to a small number of indicators which may not constitute a commercial secret.

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