

Survey Name: **Distributive Trade Statistics**
May, 2006

1. Background

For quite a long time, Tanzania has not been able to measure correctly the contribution of the distributive trade sub-sector in the economy. This is mainly due to lack of information which makes it difficult to quantify while computing GDP estimates. The sector's performance will be gauged and properly measured when information is made available through surveys/census. Generally speaking, distributive trade is an important economic activity, providing employment to a significant part of the population and contributing greatly to the GDP. According to the 2004 - 2005 Business survey, Trade establishments accounted for about 57 percent of the total business registered.

2. Survey objectives

The primary survey objective is to ensure effective compilation, analysis and dissemination of acceptable distributive trade statistics for use by government, business community and general public. Other specific survey objectives are as follows:

- To provide an up to date statistical information for the improvement of the compilation of National Accounts (GDP).
- To set benchmarks for distributive trade statistics in Tanzania
- To collect information for planning and macro-economic policy formulation such as employment, marketing and financial services.
- To provide Indicators for MKUKUTA monitoring

3. Scope, Coverage and Classification

The survey will be done on sample basis. A representative sample will be drawn from the NBS frames (Business survey and CRE). The sample size will depend on the strategy adopted during sample designing process. In consultation with the main stakeholders' an instrument for data collection (questionnaire) will be prepared and administered. International Standards for Industrial Classification, revision 3 (ISIC, rev3) shall be used as basis for the activity classification.

An exhaustive list of operating establishments in the country will be worked out. Initially, it has been agreed to utilize the fund set aside by industrial census (listing exercises) to compliment the existing frame.

4. Survey Management

The survey on distributive trade statistics will be managed by the National Bureau of Statistics as an executing agency. A technical team involving members from main stakeholders will be responsible in all technical issues including day to day activities.

5. Statistical and Reporting Units

The target statistical unit for wholesale trade and retail trade based industry surveys is the establishment. Reporting unit, the entity from which data are collected, is typically the enterprise.

6. Reporting level

Due to budgetary considerations and limited survey time the estimate will be at national level. Regional estimates will require more units be covered which will result into more funding.

The collected information will broadly cover operating income, cost of goods including inventories, and expenses.

7. Data Processing

Survey will recruit an IT expert who will be responsible for developing an appropriate computer programme for data capture, editing, validation and analysis according to tabulation plan.

8. Expected Outputs

1. Methodology report
2. Report on Distributive Trade Statistics

9. Dissemination

Report will be released to various stakeholders through workshops or disseminated through the media and finally posted on NBS website for wider circulation.