Development of Urban Statistics & Data Exploitation in China

The National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS)

October 2008
Executive Summary

- General Information of Chinese Cities
- Development of the Statistics of the Cities
- Basic Tasks & Organizations of the Statistics of the Cities
- Design of the System of the Statistical Indexes
- Development & Utilization of the Statistical Information of the Cities
General Information of Chinese Cities

Concept of A City

- Functional Concept: Before the 1990s in China, a city refers to a region which has comparatively-developed industries other than agriculture and a dense population and consisted of the downtown and suburb, embodying the functional concept; and

- Administrative Concept: After the 1990s, a city refers to a definite region administered as authorized, which has both the urban functional areas and non-urban functional areas. It covers downtown and suburb as well as the counties, embodying the administrative concept.

- A city mainly refers to the functional concept in this Report.
General Information of Chinese Cities

Chinese cities have four administrative levels:

- Cities directly under the Central Government;
- Sub-provincial cities;
- Prefecture-level cities; and
- County-level cities (quasi-cities).
General Information of Chinese Cities

Classification of the Cities According to Their Main Characteristics

- Three Urban Agglomerations
  Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta and Bohai Sea Coastal Urban Agglomerations

- Cities in Four Regions
  The Eastern, Central, Western & Northeastern Regions
Numbers of the Cities in the Recent Years

![Graph showing the number of cities over the years from 1940 to 2010. The number of cities increases significantly in the 1980s and 1990s.]
Numbers of the Cities of Different Sizes in the Recent Years

- 0.5 Million
- 0.5-1 Million
- 1-2 Million
- 2 Million

Geographical Distribution of the PL&A Cities in 2006

- Cities in the Northeast Region: 34
- Cities in the Eastern Region: 87
- Cities in the Western Region: 81
- Cities in the Central Region: 85
Scale Distribution of the PL&A Cities in 2006

- 79 cities with <0.5 Million population
- 24 cities with 0.5-1 Million population
- 13 cities with 1-2 Million population
- 64 cities with >2 Million population
- 107 cities in total
Geographical Distribution of the Population & GDP of the PL&A Cities in 2006
Percentage of the Population & GDP of the Three Urban Agglomeration in That of All the PL&A Cities in 2006

- Yangtze River Delta Urban Agglomeration: 10.9% Population, 19.4% GDP
- Bohai Sea Coastal Urban Agglomeration: 6.7% Population, 10.4% GDP
- Pearl River Delta Urban Agglomeration: 5.1% Population, 15.1% GDP
Development of the Statistics of the Cities in China

- The urban statistics commenced in the 1960s and have a history of nearly 50 years so far.
- In 1962, among the 194 cities throughout the country, the statistics were conducted in 39 chosen cities.
- From 1975 to 1977, the State Planning Commission organized the annual survey on the basic information of the national economy in all the 185 cities throughout the country, mainly the statistical indicators of the basic information of the industry.
Development of the Statistics of the Cities in China

- In 1979, the united and comprehensive national system of the urban statistics on the basic information of the economy of the cities was preliminarily established.

- In 1982, the NBS established a devoted agency responsible for the urban statistics throughout the country. The urban statistics were formally incorporated into the national statistical system.
Basic Tasks of the Statistics of the Cities

- Systematically collect and sort out the information on the basic state and development of the economy and society in each specific city.
- Provide scientific foundations for the governmental departments to formulate the development strategies of their city, supervise the implementation of the policies, compare the development among regions, and improve the level of the comprehensive administration of their city.
- Provide consulting service for the enterprises to make decisions.
The division of Urban Statistics, under the Department of Urban Surveys of the NBS (National Bureau of Statistics of China), is responsible for the National Urban Statistics. The urban statistical network in China totally consists of three levels: the national, provincial and city-level bureaus of statistics have devoted positions and personnel to be responsible for the urban statistics. The NBS formulates the plans of the urban statistics, coordinates the programming for data processing, provides training and guidance for the cities, sorts out, reviews, aggregates and disseminates the statistical information of urban statistics across the country.
Organization & Administration of the Statistics of the Cities

- Provincial bureaus provide training and guidance for city statisticians in their own region to effectively and efficiently implement the system of urban statistics formulated by the NBS, helps the cities collect, review data to ensure the accuracy, aggregate and disseminate the statistical information of urban statistics for their own region.

- According to the requirements of the national and the guidance provided by the bureaus of statistics at the higher level, bureaus of statistics at city-level organize its personnel to collect the relevant information produced by the bureaus and from the related governmental departments at the same level, sorts out, edits, reviews and inputs the data, and submits the data to the NBS by internet.
The system of statistical indicators is designed by following the principles: systematization; comparability; reliability; and practicability. It is based on the SNA and indicators used in relevant departments.
System of the Indicators of the Urban Statistics in China in 2007

- Population & Employment (34 indicators)
- Economic Department (126 indicators)
- Social Development (55 indicators)
- Infrastructure (17 indicators)
- Environmental Protection (15 indicators)
Design of Data Collection Methods

- For the statistical information of each city, data are not collected directly from enterprises or households, but collected and processed on the basis of the existing comprehensive statistical data from the specialities in bureaus of statistics, and the relevant departments under the governments of the cities.

- The basic data include the comprehensive data of the administrative records, the data of the sampling surveys, the data of the census, and the data of the system of national accounts (SNA).
The basic data of the statistical specialities and the government departments are collected on the basis of the “territorial” principle, i.e., all organizations in the city area shall be covered in the statistics regardless of their administrative subordination.

The urban statistics covers two areas: "the whole city” and "the urban area”. The urban area consists of the downtown and the suburbs. The whole city consists of the urban area and the counties.

The urban statistics are collected once every year.
Data Exploitation of the Urban Statistics in China

Ways to Publish the Statistical Information

- China Urban Statistical Yearbook
- China Urban Life and National Price Yearbook
- China Urban Statistical Yearbook
- Website of the NBS
Data Exploitation of the Urban Statistics in China

- Compiling the annual general report and reports on special topics concerning the urban development in China;
- For some regions, supervising the process of urbanization by utilizing the statistical information of the cities;
- Making the analyses and research on special topics, such as the research of the comprehensive strengths of the cities, the comparative research of the investment environment of the cities, the comparative research of the competitiveness of the cities, the comparative research of scientific development of the cities, the comparative research of the regional economic development; and
- Providing the enterprises and research institutions with consulting services
Data Exploitation of the Urban Statistics in China

The assessment of the comprehensive strengths of cities in China has achieved favorable social effects. In 1992, the NBS commenced the assessment of the comprehensive strengths of cities and held the first news press in the mainland and Hong Kong, attracting great attention of the governments of cities at all levels and causing a big sensation in the society. After that, an assessment is conducted every 2-3 years. The assessment results have been referred to and used as an important ground to assess the administration performance of the governments of cities by the relevant departments under the State Council and some local governments. According to the assessment results, most cities understand their development level and rating among cities throughout the country, summarize their experiences continuously, figure out the gaps, formulate the policies and improve their administration methods. The assessment plays a vital role in improving the better and more rapid development of cities.
Thank you