

CAUCASUS BAROMETER 2012

Short description of the Survey

The Caucasus Barometer (CB) is an annual cross-border project, initiated by the Eurasia Partnership Foundation Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), aimed at studying public opinion on social, political and economic processes in the South Caucasus (SC) region. The CRRC teams of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia have been collecting reliable data from households on the region annually since 2004, which provides opportunities to make comparisons between countries by developing the observing long-term regional trends. Since 2006 the survey has been carried out throughout each country, including every accessible rural and urban settlement¹.

Survey Instrument

The questionnaire as a survey instrument was developed by the teams of researchers from all three SC countries. The questionnaire is revised every year; with new questions added, ineffective questions eliminated, and slight revisions to others where necessary. The main questionnaire contains about 100 questions regarding information on demographic, social, political and economic developments of the South Caucasus region. In 2012, the questionnaire was enriched with questions about feelings in each country towards Joseph Stalin, and specific questions seeking to understand public opinion in Armenia on the Armenian Genocide and relations between Armenia and Turkey.

Survey Methodology

CB 2012 employed multistage cluster sampling of the adult population of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, except the territories affected by military conflicts. Each country was divided into macro-strata: Capital, Urban and Rural; each macro-strata was further divided into geographic regions: northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest. During the first stage of sampling, voting precincts were randomly sampled within each stratum, with selection probability proportional to the size of the precincts. The number of registered voters was used as a measure of the precinct size. During the second stage, random walk methodology was applied to sample the target households within selected precincts. Finally, the respondents were identified during the third stage of sampling using the Kish tables. A total of 6715 respondents were interviewed face-to face (2384 in Armenia, 1829 in Azerbaijan, and 2502 in Georgia).

Data availability

The survey instruments: questionnaires, show cards, the detailed sampling methodology document, the survey databases (in SPSS format) and some findings can be found on the CRRC regional website at www.crrccenters.org, as well as on the website of CRRC-Armenia <http://crrc.am/index.php/en/14/164>. For more information please contact CRRC-Armenia.

The Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) is a network of resource and training centers established in 2003 in the capital cities of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia with the goal of strengthening social science research and public policy analysis in the South Caucasus. CRRC network, a partnership project between the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Eurasia Partnership Foundation, and leading local universities (in Armenia – Yerevan State University), offers scholars and practitioners stable opportunities for integrated research, training and collaboration in the region. To get information about CRRC projects please contact CRRC Armenia.

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¹The survey was not carried out in Nagorno Karabakh, Nakhichevan, Abkhazia and the Southern Ossetia.