

## Historical Background

Internal trade censuses and surveys have been conducted in Iraq since 1956 as following-:

- ❖ In 1956 Central Statistical Organisation (main directorate of statistics which belonged to the Ministry of Economy) has conducted a survey on the internal trade (private sector) which is considered to be the first census in Iraq.
- ❖ In 1975/1976 CSO has conducted the Internal Trade Census at governorate level in a way that ensures calculating value added by using more than one method, some indicators : (commodity stock, profit, fixed assets value and establishment area) were included for the first time. The activity aspect of each establishment has been specified in this census. The work has being last for a year to measure the trade movement through purchase, sale, commodity cost as well as the elements of the cost processes proceeded by listing process of establishments working in wholesale and retail business in private sector.
- ❖ In 1979 CSO has conducted a sample survey on wholesale and retail business in private sector depending on the frame of housings and establishments listing results for 1977 which has been updated before selecting the sample of the survey for urban and rural. The survey last for a year.
- ❖ In 1988 CSO has conducted the internal trade survey at governorate level which has provided data on commercial shops and establishments in urban and rural areas at basic specializations only (the fourth level of activities) by the International Standard Classification of adjusted economic activity. The survey has been lasted for (12) months from November /1987 to the end of October /1988. Sample methodology by (percentage) at governorate level was used and elements of sample were selected after sizes of governorates being defined. Data were compiled from the statistical records prepared by CSO by editing quantities and values the establishment weekly merchandised at month and season level, three questionnaires were designed for conducting the survey: the first questionnaire for the first period storage, the second one for seasonal data (first, second and third quarters) and the third one for the last period storage and fourth quarter data).
- ❖ CSO has stopped implementing internal trade survey after 1988 due to the serious situation Iraq witnessed. The necessity for internal trade activity data is essential due to the current circumstances and economic events after 2003 events represented by transformation from planned economy system to market economy system. CSO has conducted the mentioned survey in 2008 to meet the national accounts system needs for updated data and information on this activity going along with the economic changes Iraq witness.