

Regions and administrative division in the Electronic Repository of Russian Historical Statistics

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Introduction

The Electronic Repository of Russian Historical Statistics offers key indicators on the social and economic development of Russia's regions for five historical cross-sections (1795, 1858, 1897, 1959, 2002). Data are standardised to facilitate their use for cross-regional and cross-country comparisons in social and economic history research.

For entirely pragmatic reasons, the Electronic Repository at this point limits itself to the regions which are part of the modern-day Russian Federation (2002 borders). However, where sources also contained data for other regions part of the Russian state at that point in time, we have also included these data as a supplement to those for the "core regions". This primarily concerns data for the cross-section 1897, often gathered and published on one programme for all of the territory of the Russian empire at the time. For those cross-sections and topics where data were procured primarily from archival sources (1795, 1858 and 1959), we largely limited ourselves to data for Russia proper, in view of the time-consuming character of archival data-mining.

Changes of internal borders and administrative divisions in the course of two centuries create serious problems for historical research from a regional perspective.

To start with, data should be gathered for a unified list of regions from a wide variety of sources. For those cross-sections where sources allowed us to gather all, or most required data for one single year (1858, 1897, 1959, 2002), this generally did not present problems, because all data relate to one and the same administrative division. For the cross-section 1795, however, the availability sources did not allow us to strictly limit ourselves to one years, and as a result the data for this cross-section do not all relate to one and the same administrative division. For this reason, the list of regions for the cross-section 1795 contains more than one position for some regions (for details, see the section below).

A second problem is that of comparison between changing territories over time. In the current version of the Electronic Repository of Russian Historical Statistics data are provided for "historical regions", i.e. regions in their historical boundaries for the year to which the data relate. For some regions boundary-changes are relatively limited over the course of the last two centuries and for these regions data can fruitfully be compared over time. For most regions, however, territorial changes were such that a direct comparison over time can only provide tentative results, and this should be borne in mind when using the data for such comparative purposes. For a next version of the Electronic Repository of Russian Historical Statistics it is our intention to also start offering the data in a version recalculated into territorial units comparable over time.

Full lists of the regions present in the data-set for the five cross-sections are included in the appendices to this methodological paper.

Regions for the cross-section 1795

The list of regions for which data are gathered has been compiled from the administrative division of the Russian Empire at the time of the 1795 tax-payers census (5th "reviziia").¹ However, a whole range of indicators present in the data-base relate to other years, from 1784 to 1808. For data relating to earlier years (1784-1794), this does not present great problems, as the changes in regional boundaries and administrative division were fairly limited during this period. This is completely different for the data relating to later years.

¹ L.G. Beskrovnyi, Ya.E. Vodarskii, V.M. Kabuzan. *Itogovye materialy podvornnykh perepisei i revizii naseleniia Rossii (1646-1858)*. Vypusk 6. (Moscow, 1972).

The country underwent significant changes in territorial boundaries and administrative division in the course of reforms launched by the Emperor Paul I in late 1796 and continuing throughout the period of his reign (1796-1801). Changes were so frequent, and so radical, that they effectively preclude the possibility of compiling a list of comparable territories for these years. For this reason, we have refrained from gathering data which relate to the period of Paul's reign, with one single exception. By far the best and most complete data on industrial production were available for the year 1797, i.e. after the start of the reforms, but fortunately these data are available for individual districts (*uezdy*), the boundaries of which remained largely unchanged, and this has allowed us to recalculate these data into the 1795 administrative division.

At the start of the 19th century Paul's reforms were undone and the country largely returned to the administrative division of Catherine II's reign (1762-1796).² For most regions, therefore, the early 19th century boundaries are equal to those existing in 1795, and in these cases we have stuck to the 1795 region names, even if the data might actually relate to later years in some cases. If, however, data relate to different regional boundaries than those in place in 1795, we have indicated so in the region names.

Example:

The region-name «Tobolsk governorate (1804>)» means, that data relate to the Tobolsk governorate in its post-1804 boundaries, whereas the actual data might relate, for example, to 1805 or 1806.

whereas:

The region-name «Tobolsk governorate» without further additions, means that data relate to the Tobolsk governorate in its 1795 boundaries, even if the actual data might relate to any year between 1784 and 1795.

In order to find out about the exact year to which the data relate, the data-set should be downloaded with full meta-data from the file catalogue (<https://ristat.org/datasets/indicators>).

Regions for the cross-section 1858

Due to the circumstance that the data for the cross-section 1858 were exclusively sourced from archival records, we have limited ourselves exclusively to the "core regions", part of the Russian Federation in 2002.

In line with the source-base and reporting principles based on formal jurisdiction, data are presented separately for the territories under civil administration (governorates and *namestnichestva*), and the territories of the different Cossack and irregular troops, which were under military administration.

Separate reports were filed with the Imperial administration for the capital, St. Petersburg, and the naval base of Kronshtadt on the island of Kotlin in the Finnish Gulf, but to facilitate comparison with other cross-sections, we have included these data with the St. Petersburg governorate.

Data for the Vyborg governorate, part of the Grand Duchy of Finland at the time, were sourced from the National Archive of Finland.

The list of regions for the cross-section 1858 was derived from the 1858 tax-payers' census (10th *reviziia*), and supplemented with the territories under military administration, which were not included in the census.³

² A full list of the changes and a correspondence table between the 1795 and post-1801 administrative division is available in appendix 6 of the Russian version of this methodological paper.

³ L.G. Beskrovnyi, Ya.E. Vodarskii, V.M. Kabuzan. *Itogovye materialy podvornykh perepisei i revizii naseleniia Rossii (1646-1858)*. Vypusk 12. (Moscow, 1972).

Regions for the cross-section 1897

By the late nineteenth century the administrative decision of the Russian empire had stabilised, and the data included into the Electronic Repository for the cross-section 1897 overwhelmingly relate to the exact year 1897. The list of regions was derived from the First Population Census of the Russian Empire of 21 January 1897.⁴ Because many sources on which we relied, incl. the population census, contain data for all regions of the empire, we included data for the full set of regions where available, but limited ourselves to the regions part of the 2002 Russian Federation for those indicators where additional data-mining and/or estimation procedures were required.

Regions for the cross-section 1959

In line with the administrative division of the Soviet-Union into separate union-republics, data-gathering for the cross-section 1959 was limited only to the regions of the Russian union-republic (RSFSR). The list of regions for which data were gathered was derived from the All-union population census of 1959.⁵ For some indicators separate data were available for national autonomous districts and for the overarching territories of which they were part. In other cases data are available only for the overarching territories as a whole, i.e. including the national and autonomous districts. In both cases this is clearly indicated in the region names.

Regions for the cross-section 2002

The list of subjects of the Russian Federation of 2002 from the 2002 Population census served as the check-list for compiling the region-lists for the other cross-sections.⁶ The main difference with the principles of administrative division in place for the other cross-sections, is that the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg are full-fledged subjects of the Russian Federation, which means that data for these two cities are provided separately, and are not included with the totals for the Moscow and Leningrad provinces.

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⁴ N.A. Troinitskii ed., *Obshchii svod po imperii rezul'tatov razrabotki dannykh pervoi vseobshchei perepisi naseleniia, proizvedennoi 28 ianvaria 1897 g.*, 2 vols. (St. Petersburg, 1905).

⁵ *Itogi Vsesoiuznoi perepisi naseleniia 1959 g.*, 16 vols. (Moscow, 1960-1963).

⁶ *Itogi Vserossiiskoi perepisi naseleniia 2002 g.* 14 vols. (Moscow, 2004-2005).

Appendix 1 - List of regions for cross-section 1795.

Arkhangelsk governorate	Podolsk namestnichestvo
Astrakhan governorate (1802>)	Polotsk governorate
Bratslavsk namestnichestvo	Poltava governorate (1802>)
Caucasus governorate (1802>)	Pskov governorate
Caucasus namestnichestvo	Reval namestnichestvo
Chernigov governorate (1802>)	Riga namestnichestvo
Chernigov namestnichestvo	Ryazan governorate
Don Cossack host lands	Saratov governorate
Ekaterinoslav governorate (1802>)	Simbirsk governorate
Irkutsk governorate	Slobodsk-Ukrainian governorate (1803>)
Irkutsk governorate (1805>)	Slonim namestnichestvo
Kaluga governorate	Smolensk governorate
Kazan governorate	St. Petersburg governorate
Kharkov governorate	Tambov governorate
Kherson governorate (1802>)	Taurida governorate
Kiev governorate (1796>)	Tobolsk governorate
Kiev namestnichestvo	Tobolsk governorate (1804>)
Kolyvan governorate	Tomsk governorate (1804>)
Kostroma governorate	Tula governorate
Kurland governorate	Tver governorate
Kursk governorate	Ufa namestnichestvo
Kursk governorate (1802>)	Viatka governorate
Minsk governorate	Vilna governorate
Mogilev governorate	Vladimir governorate
Moscow governorate	Volhynian governorate (1799>)
Nizhny Novgorod governorate	Volhynian namestnichestvo
Novgorod governorate	Vologda governorate
Novgorod-Severskoe namestnichestvo	Voronezh governorate (1803>)
Olonets governorate	Voronezh namestnichestvo
Orel governorate	Voznesensk governorate
Penza governorate	Vyborg governorate
Perm governorate	Yaroslavl governorate
Podolsk governorate (1796>)	Yekaterinoslav namestnichestvo

NB: For translating Russian region names we have adhered to the following principles: Губерния = governorate, Область = region, Край = territory, Округ = district, Земля = lands, Республика = republic, apostrophe for Russian "ь" suppressed for clarity.

Appendix 2 - List of regions for the cross-section 1858

Amur Cossack host lands	Podolsk governorate
Amur region	Poltava governorate
Arkhangelsk governorate	Primorskaya region
Astrakhan Cossack host lands	Pskov governorate
Astrakhan governorate	Ryazan governorate
Azov Cossack host lands	Samara governorate
Bashkir Cossack host lands	Saratov governorate
Black Sea Cossack host lands	Semipalatinsk governorate
Caucasus Line Cossack host lands	Siberian Kyrgyz region
Chernigov governorate	Siberian line Cossack host lands
Derbent governorate	Simbirsk governorate
Don Cossack host lands	Smolensk governorate
Enisei governorate	St. Petersburg governorate
Enisei mounted Cossack batallion's lands	Stavropol governorate
Irkutsk governorate	Tambov governorate
Irkutsk mounted Cossack batallion's lands	Tobolsk governorate
Kaluga governorate	Tobolsk infantry batallion's lands
Kazan governorate	Tobolsk mounted Cossack battalion's lands
Kharkov governorate	Tomsk governorate
Kostroma governorate	Transbaikal Cossack host lands
Kursk governorate	Transbaikal region
Lifland governorate	Tula governorate
Lublin governorate	Tver governorate
Minsk governorate	Ural Cossack host lands
Mogilev governorate	Viatka governorate
Moscow governorate	Vitebsk governorate
Nizhny Novgorod governorate	Vladimir governorate
Novgorod governorate	Vologda governorate
Olonets governorate	Voronezh governorate
Orel governorate	Vyborg governorate
Orenburg Cossack host lands	Yakutsk region
Orenburg governorate	Yaroslavl governorate
Penza governorate	Yekaterinoslav governorate
Perm governorate	

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Приложение №3 - Перечень регионов для временного среза 1897 г.

Akmola region	Kutaisi governorate incl. Sukhumi district	Stavropol governorate Sukhumi district of Kutaisi governorate
Amur region	Livonia governorate	Syr-Darya region
Arkhangelsk governorate	Lomża governorate	Tambov governorate
Astrakhan governorate	Lublin governorate	Taurida governorate
Baku governorate	Minsk governorate	Terek governorate
Bessarabia governorate	Mogilev governorate	Tiflis governorate excl. Zakatal'skii district
Black Sea governorate	Moscow governorate	Tiflis governorate incl. Zakatal'skii district
Chernigov governorate	Nizhny Novgorod governorate	Tobolsk governorate
Dagestan region	Novgorod governorate	Tomsk governorate
Don Cossack host lands	Olonets governorate	Transbaikal region
Ekaterinoslav governorate	Orel governorate	Transcaspian region
Elisabethpol governorate	Orenburg governorate	Tula governorate
Enisei governorate	Penza governorate	Turgay region
Erevan governorate	Perm governorate	Tver governorate
Estonia governorate	Piotrków governorate	Ufa governorate
Fergana governorate	Płock governorate	Ural region
Grodno governorate	Poltava governorate	Viatka governorate
Irkutsk governorate	Primorskaya region	Vilna governorate
Kalisz governorate	Pskov governorate	Vitebsk governorate
Kaluga governorate	Radom governorate	Vladimir governorate
Kars governorate	Ryazan governorate	Volhynian governorate
Kazan governorate	Sakhalin island	Vologda governorate
Kharkov governorate	Samara governorate	Voronezh governorate
Kherson governorate	Samarkand governorate	Vyborg governorate
Kielce governorate	Saratov governorate	Warsaw governorate
Kiev governorate	Semipalatinsk governorate	Yakutsk region
Kostroma governorate	Semirechye region	Yaroslavl governorate
Kovno governorate	Siedlce governorate	Zakatal'skii district of Tiflis governorate
Kuban region	Simbirsk governorate	
Kurland governorate	Smolensk governorate	
Kursk governorate	St. Petersburg governorate	
Kutaisi governorate excl. Sukhumi district		

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Приложение №4 - Перечень регионов для временного среза 1959 г.

Adyghe autonomous region of Krasnodar territory	Karelian ASSR	Orenburg region
Agin-Buryat national district of Chita region	Kemerovo region	Penza region
Altai territory incl. Gorno-Altai autonomous region	Khabarovsk territory incl. Jewish autonomous region	Perm region
Amur region	Khakas autonomous region of Krasnoiarsk territory	Primorsky territory
Arkhangelsk region	Khanty-Mansi national district of Tyumen region	Pskov region
Astrakhan region	Kirov region	Rostov region
Bashkir ASSR	Komi ASSR	Ryazan region
Belgorod region	Komi-Permyak national district of Perm region	Sakhalin region
Briansk region	Koryak national district of Kamchatka region	Saratov region
Buryat ASSR	Kostroma region	Smolensk region
Chechen-Ingush ASSR	Krasnodar territory incl. Adyghe autonomous region	Stalingrad region
Chelyabinsk region	Krasnoiarsk territory incl. Khakas autonomous region	Stavropol territory incl. Karachay-Cherkess autonomous region
Chita region	Kurgan region	Sverdlovsk region
Chukotka national district of Magadan region	Kursk region	Tambov region
Chuvash ASSR	Kuybyshev region	Tatar ASSR
Dagestan ASSR	Leningrad region	Taymyr Dolgano-Nenets national okrug of Krasnoiarsk territory
Evenk national okrug of Krasnoiarsk territory	Lipetsk region	Tomsk region
Gorky region	Magadan region incl. Chukotka national district	Tula region
Gorno-Altai autonomous region of Altai territory	Mari ASSR	Tuvan autonomous region
Irkutsk region	Mordovian ASSR	Tyumen region
Ivanovo region	Moscow region	Udmurt ASSR
Jewish autonomous region of Khabarovsk territory	Murmansk region	Ulyanovsk region
Kabardino-Balkar ASSR	Nenets national district of Arkhangelsk region	Ust-Orda Buryat national district of Irkutsk region
Kalinin region	North Ossetian ASSR	Vladimir region
Kaliningrad region	Novgorod region	Vologda region
Kalmyk ASSR	Novosibirsk region	Voronezh region
Kaluga region	Omsk region	Yakut ASSR
Kamchatka region	Orel region	Yamalo-Nenets national district of Tyumen region
Karachay-Cherkess autonomous region of Stavropol territory		Yaroslavl region

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Приложение №5 - Перечень регионов для временного среза 2002 г.

Agin-Buryat autonomous district	district	Republic of Mordovia
Altai Republic	Kostroma region	Republic of North Ossetia-Alania
Altai territory	Krasnodar territory	Republic of Tatarstan
Amur region	Krasnooiarsk territory	Rostov region
Arkhangelsk region	Kurgan region	Ryazan region
Astrakhan region	Kursk region	Sakha (Yakutia) Republic
Belgorod region	Leningrad region	Sakhalin region
Briansk region	Lipetsk region	Samara region
Chechen Republic	Magadan region	Saratov region
Chelyabinsk region	Mari El Republic	Smolensk region
Chita region	Moscow (city)	St. Petersburg (city)
Chukotka autonomous district	Moscow region	Stavropol territory
Chuvash Republic	Murmansk region	Sverdlovsk region
Evenk autonomous district	Nenets autonomous district	Tambov region
Irkutsk region	Nizhny Novgorod region	Taymyr Dolgano-Nenets autonomous district
Ivanov region	Novgorod region	Tomsk region
Jewish autonomous region	Novosibirsk region	Tula region
Kabardino-Balkar Republic	Omsk region	Tver region
Kaliningrad region	Orel region	Tyumen region
Kaluga region	Orenburg region	Tyva Republic
Kamchatka region	Penza region	Udmurt Republic
Karachay-Cherkess Republic	Perm region	Ulyanovsk region
Kemerovo region	Primorsky territory	Ust-Orda Buryat autonomous district
Khabarovsk territory	Pskov region	Vladimir region
Khanty-Mansi autonomous district	Republic of Adygea	Volgograd region
Kirov region	Republic of Bashkortostan	Vologda region
Komi Republic	Republic of Buryatia	Voronezh region
Komi-Permyak autonomous district	Republic of Dagestan	Yamalo-Nenets autonomous district
Koryak autonomous	Republic of Ingushetia	Yaroslavl region
	Republic of Kalmykia	
	Republic of Karelia	
	Republic of Khakassia	

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