

ACC SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES  
Twenty-sixth session  
Geneva, 6-10 April 1992  
Agenda item 7

SA/1992//

COORDINATION OF ONGOING STATISTICS PROGRAMMES\*

Technical Working Group on Statistical Databases  
Ninth meeting, Geneva, 29 April-1 May 1992  
Agenda item 4(a)

TECHNICAL ISSUES AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN COLLECTION  
AND DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICAL DATA:  
ON-LINE ACCESS TO UNITED NATIONS DATABASES

Inventory of international statistical databases  
available in machine-readable form to outside users

Note by the United Nations Statistical Office

For about ten years the "Inventory of Computerized Statistical Databases" has been prepared by the Subcommittee's Technical Working Group on Statistical Databases as a working paper for organizations participating in the Subcommittee. Release 5.0 is now in preparation for completion at the ninth meeting of the Technical Working Group.

Over the last two years the Statistical Commission and the Subcommittee have noted increasing interest in international statistical databases available in machine-readable form or on-line. Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/70, "The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States", copy attached, is by no means an isolated example of this interest.

In response to this level of interest, the Statistical Office has prepared a listing of databases in the "Inventory" which provide outputs or on-line access to outsiders, as a supplement to the Core Statistics Database currently being tested by the Statistical Office, discussed by the Subcommittee at its twenty-third and twenty-fourth session. This listing (which the Technical Working Group is now updating) and a sample of the backup information on each database are attached.

The Technical Working Group is invited to ensure the accuracy, comprehensiveness and suitability of the information provided for outside users.

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\* For consideration by the Technical Working Group at its ninth meeting. Distributed to the Subcommittee at its twenty-sixth session for information.

Annex I 1991/70. The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the vital importance of informatics in promoting and accelerating development,

Considering it imperative that States Members of the United Nations and observers have easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access to the growing computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations,

Regretting that Member States lack such access to existing United Nations informatics systems at present,

Stressing the need for representatives of all States to be actively associated with United Nations bodies, such as the International Computing Centre, dealing with informatics within the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind the ongoing discussions on the reform of the General Assembly,

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources and in consultation with representatives of States, a study analysing the causes of the present situation with respect to United Nations informatics systems and providing an outline of a rapid solution to the problem, leading to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access to United Nations computerized databases and information systems and services, which are of great importance to all States, in particular to the developing countries, and to report thereon to the Council at its regular session of 1992.

32nd plenary meeting  
26 July 1991

**Annex II - Inventory of statistical databases with machine-readable products  
available to outside users**

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	DISTAT - Statistics on Disabled Persons	4
	IIPS - Index Numbers of Industrial Production	5
	MTS - Maritime Transport Statistics	6
	National Accounts Statistics	7
	Population Projections	8
	WISTAT - Statistics and Indicators on Women	9
ECA	SDB Statistical Data Base, Level III *	10
ECE	ACCIDENT - Road Traffic Accidents for Europe	11
	ACIER - Statistical of World Trade in Steel	12
	COAL - Coal Statistics for Europe	13
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	ELECT - Electric Energy Statistics for Europe	15
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	FOREST FIRE STATISTICS	17
	GAS - Gas Statistics for Europe	18
	GENERGY - General Energy Statistics for Europe	19
	HOUSBLD - Housing and Building Statistics for Europe	20
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STATIN - Statistical Indicators of Short-Term Economic Changes	22	
TRANSPRT - Transport Statistics for Europe	23	
ESCAP	TISNET - MIS	24
UNCHS	HSDB.stat - Human Settlements Data Base	25
UNCTAD	ETS - Economic Time Series	27
FAO	AGROSTAT Information System	29
ICAO	ATSP - Air Transport Statistics Programme	31
ILO	LABOCT - October Inquiry	32
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	LABSSM - Statistical Sources and Methods	34
	WDEAP - World Demographic Estimates and Projections, 1950 - 2025	35
IMF	Economic Information System (EIS)	36
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WHO	CANCMORB - Cancer morbidity	40
	MORTALITY	41
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	CRONOS *	43
IDB	Latin America: Country Statistics	45
OECD	AGR - Agricultural Food Balances, Livestock Data and Economic Accounts	46
	AGRTR - Agricultural Trade Statistics	47
	ALFS - Annual Labour Force Statistics	48
	ANA - Annual National Accounts	49
	BSCI - Business Surveys and Cyclical Indicators	50
	COMTAP - Compatible Trade and Production Data Base	51
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	FLOW - Capital Stock	56
	IIA - Indicators of Industrial Activity	57
	ISIS DATABASE - Industrial Structure Statistics	58
	MEI - Main Economic Indicators	59
	QLFS - Quarterly Labour Force Statistics	60
	QNA - Quarterly National Accounts	61
	REVENUE - Revenue Statistics of OECD Member Countries	62
	SERIES-A - Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade	63
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	STIRD - Science and Technology Statistics	65

Sample listing

**COMTRADE - Commodity Trade Statistics System**

United Nations Department of Economical and Social Development

CHIEF CONTACT: Mr. Richard Roberts, Chief, International Trade and Related Statistics Branch, Statistical Office, DESD, United Nations, New York N.Y. 10017. USA

HOST COMPUTER: New York Computing Service IBM 3090 Model 200E MVS/XA, IBM 4381/GROUP 3 MVS/XA

TOTAL SIZE: 3600MB

**DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS**

Broad Subject Area	Primary Access Keys	Classification Used	Other Fields	Time Span Data	Number of Observations or Records	Frequency of Update	Annual Increase
Commodity Trade Statistics SITC rev1	Reporting Country, Year and Period, Type of Trade, Commodity Co	SITC rev1, M49	Country of Origin or Destination, Values and Quantities	Annual since 1962, Quarterly since 1984	Annual 100.77 million, Quarterly 0.74 million	Weekly	40MB
Commodity Trade Statistics SITC rev2	Reporting Country, Year and Period, Type of Trade, Commodity Co	SITC rev2 (1), M49	Country of Origin or Destination, Values and Quantities	Annual since 1976, Quarterly since 1984 (2)	Annual 44.88 million, Quarterly 29.76 million	Weekly	50MB
Commodity Trade Statistics SITC Rev3	Reporting Country, Year and Period, Type of Trade, Commodity	SITC rev3 (3), M49	Country of Origin or Destination, Values and Quantities	Quarterly and Annual beginning in 1988	Annual 5 million, Quarterly 15 million	Weekly	30MB

**Access/Availability.** Available on-line for internal use. External access (browse) is provided to Regional Commissions and UN Agencies via the AV D lines connecting regional centres with HQ New York. Similar access on a trial basis is available to the Missions of Member States in the New York area. Subsets of the data in the data base, in a variety of output formats, are offered as standard products on magnetic tape. Data files are put on 9-track tape, any density, as fixed or variable length records in either all EBCDIC characters or using IBM floating point numbers. Prices are available on request. Limited subsets of the UN data on diskette for use with PCs can be made available by special arrangement. Other outputs are microfiche and ad hoc computer printouts.

**Published Outputs:** (1) Commodity Trade Statistics (2) International Trade Statistics Yearbook (3) World Trade Annual and Supplement to the World Trade Annual (4) Microfiche

**Printed Reference Material:** Statistical Papers Series M (original and revisions) No.30 - Customs Areas of the World, No.34 - Standard International Trade Classification, No.38 - Commodity Indexes for the Standard International Trade Classification, Volumes I and No.52 - International Trade Statistics - Concepts and Definitions.

**Footnotes:** (1) The SITC rev2 was introduced in 1976 with a few countries reporting. By 1978, data for most of the world's important trading countries were available in SITC rev2. (2) The commodity trade data statistics are stored on disk in compressed format. Quarterly data are available on-line for the last three or four years, prior quarterly data are stored on magnetic tapes. (3) Beginning with data for 1988 some countries are available in SITC rev3 as well as SITC rev2.