

**Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics Division**

**Second Meeting of the Expert Group on Industrial Statistics
New York, 16-19 July 2007**

Summary of recommendations and Conclusions of the Proceedings
(including conclusions and recommendations reached during joint sessions with the
Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics)

Summary of recommendations and conclusions of the proceedings on 16 July 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Industrial Statistics

General comments on the format of presentation and content of the International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics (IRIS); introduction; and scope of industrial statistics

To what extent the international recommendations on Industrial Statistics and Distributive Trade Statistics are related?

1. The Group recognized that IRIS and IRDTS have been built basically on the same concepts, definitions, and some data items, though intrinsic character of the two groups of activities requires different data items and elaboration of the concepts to meet the specific needs of each recommendation. Even though it might be preferable to have one publication with separate chapters dealing with activity specific issues, the Group agreed to the publication of the two separate documents in view of the strong plea for modular approach and also to meet the needs of the developing world. The Group recommended that the structure and format of the two publications should be same and write-up on common principles, concepts and definitions of data items should be made identical in the two documents.

On suggestion to add a chapter on Data Quality and Metadata to the IRIS document

2. The Group recommended that a chapter on Data Quality and Metadata should be added to IRIS. The content and structure of the chapter should be the same to the one appearing in the IRDTS document.

On the suggestion to change the current sequences of the chapters in the current draft

3. The Group agreed to retain the present sequencing of the chapters.

Suggestion to include a statement on purpose of IRIS after Background section

4. The Group agreed to include the following statement of purpose in the introduction section of the present IRIS draft:

“The IRIS is an agreed intermediate output framework of a coherent set of internationally agreed principles, concepts and definitions of data items to be collected and published for the measurement of the industrial activity. The National Statistical Offices need to assess applicability and practicability of implementing the recommendations to their situation taking into account their circumstances e.g. identified user needs, resources, priorities and respondent burden.”

Should the text be clarified to indicate that infrequent-enquiries are those that are conducted on ad-hoc basis and on irregular intervals and that such enquiries are not recommended for collection of general purpose production statistics?

5. There was an agreement that infrequent enquiries are not appropriate for collection of general purpose production statistics. Still the Group concluded that benchmarking and ad-hoc enquiries are useful depending on the specific circumstances of the country and as such should find place in the text.

Should Construction be included in the scope of industrial statistics?

6. The Group recommended that construction should not be included in the scope of the industrial statistics.

Should the text be clarified to indicate that all units engaged in industrial activities belonging to different segment of the economy, specially government quasi-corporations and undifferentiated goods and service producing activities of households for own use (div 98) may be covered through different data collection instruments?

7. The Group recommended that these segments of the economy should be covered through different data collection instruments.

Should the IRIS be extended to recommend that data sets on industrial activities collected through different data collection instruments be integrated into a comprehensive database on industrial statistics?

8. The majority of the Group felt that though it is desirable but it would be difficult to achieve this.

Joint session of the Expert Group on Industrial Statistics and Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics

Statistical units and their characteristics

In European context, doubts have been raised on use of establishment as the most appropriate statistical unit for production data dealt with in these recommendations.

9. Recognizing that the System of National Accounts recommends establishment as the most appropriate statistical unit for production and employment data, the Group encouraged countries to use establishment as a statistical unit for industrial and distributive trade statistics to ensure the homogeneity of the economic activity and its geographic distribution. However, the choice of statistical unit can be guided also by factors such as purpose of the study, the availability and quality of requisite data. Therefore the enterprise also can be used as the statistical unit. In majority of the cases the establishment and the enterprise are the same except in the case of the multi-establishment enterprises.

10. The Group recommended that allocation of profits and costs of headquarter establishment, and other ancillary establishments to other establishments of the enterprise should be discussed in the international recommendations.

What should be the consensus recommendation for size distribution?

11. The Group supported the following size distribution adopted by the Eurostat:

For industry: 1-9, 10-19, 20-49, 50-249, 250+

For distributive trade: 1, 2-9, 10-19, 20-49, 50-249, 250+

12. Countries may use more detailed breakdowns provided that they can be aggregated into the recommended size classes. The Groups also acknowledged that for national purposes some countries may prefer to use the turnover as a criterion for size class distribution

On the taxonomy of statistical units by size

13. The Group did not support the labelling of the size classes.

Summary of recommendations and conclusions of the proceedings on 17 July 2007

Joint session of the Expert Group on Industrial Statistics and Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics

Link between business accounting and the economic accounting; and Data items for the IRIS and IRDTS

On link between economic data items to be collected and business accounts

14. The IRIS and IRDTS expert Groups emphasized that definitions of the data items should be consistent with the 1993 SNA, Rev.1. It was recognized that business accounting principles, rules and terminology vary from country to country, therefore, the Group recommended that a section in both IRIS and IRDTS should discuss the importance of using terminology in the questionnaires that are familiar with businesses and advise countries to develop, to the extent possible, the correspondences between the concepts used in economic accounting and in national business accounting practices. This will be helpful to reduce the response burden and ensure reporting of a better quality of data.

On data list: should the data lists of IRIS and IRDTS be fully harmonized

15. The Group recommended that the list of data items mentioned in both documents should be integrated and fully harmonized at the 2-digit level. The integrated list should identify each data item by the unique code and label and should include the data items for the purpose of both the structural business statistics and the short-term statistics. For this purpose it was suggested that such a list of data items be developed in electronic consultation with the sub-group of the Expert Groups.

Expert Group on Industrial Statistics

Data items and their definitions

With the extension of the data items to link to environment and inclusion of intellectual property products; should international recommendations: (a) Provide flexibility in choice of statistical units (establishment or enterprise), and (b) Suggest that different data collection instruments may be used?

16. The Groups agreed. Some countries pointed out that data on intellectual property (for example, mineral exploration and evaluation) are only available at the enterprise or enterprise-Group levels.

Should the data item "leased employment" be included in the Employment block or in the Cost block as part of 'purchase of goods and services'?

17. The Group recommended that this data item should be included in both the blocks. The inclusion of cost of "leased employment" in the Cost block is important for the construction of input-output table while the inclusion of "leased employment" in the Employment block in terms of hours worked is important for the study on labour productivity.

On principle of valuation of output at basic prices: Should elaboration be provided in the text for flexibility of implementation in view of the European concern with regard to the availability of information from the records of businesses?

18. The Group emphasized that valuation of output at basic prices is desirable to ensure consistency with the 1993 SNA Rev. 1. In some countries, however, it is difficult, both for the respondents and the survey statisticians, to distinguish between 'taxes and subsidies on products' and 'other taxes and subsidies on production' in which case, the valuation of output at factor cost can serve as the second best alternative.

On capitalization of own-account intellectual property (IP) products: Should international recommendations provide more elaboration on data items to be collected for the imputation?

19. At present, the requisite data items are shown in two separate places: (i) employment [total employees in data item 2.13 and hours worked in data item 3.1] and (ii) total cost of investment (data item 12.44). Since the measurement of IP product is relatively a new endeavour, it was agreed that number of countries: Australia, Canada, France, Germany and the Netherlands will review their country practices and advice on the elaboration as to the best approach for data collection and additional data items to be included.

Imputation of capitalized IP products: The consensus is that imputation for capitalisation should be done by national accountants. Should there be an international recommendation that imputation be done in the industrial database to align the micro data with the macro-economic data?

20. The Group expressed doubts that it would be possible to align the micro data with the macro-economic data.

UN list of industrial products: Should the list be annexed to the international recommendations?

21. The Group agreed that it would be useful to annex the UN list of products to the IRIS. It however, pointed out that the list should be updated regularly on the UNSD

website to reflect changes in the composition of the commodities. The link to the website hosting the UN list of products should be referenced in the document.

Net new orders (current value of all new orders received during the enquiry period less cancellation during the period) has been recommended as one of the data item. Eurostat recommends cancellations not to be subtracted. Should the data on new orders be collected on gross or net basis?

22. The Group recommended against the subtraction of cancellations of order and that (gross) new orders should be used as the data item.

Unfilled orders at the end of enquiry period' (current value of all orders outstanding at the end of the enquiry period) has been recommended as one of the data item. Should this data item be recommended to be collected for all industrial activities?

23. The Group considered this item of low priority. The Group suggested that the text should mention all commonly collected short-term indicators depicting business cycles and discuss their usefulness.

Joint session of the Expert Group on Industrial Statistics and Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics

Data sources and data compilation methods

Under administrative data source, should the use of privately controlled administrative data sources (such as Dun and Bradstreet in UK) be mentioned in the text?

24. The IRIS and IRDTS expert Groups agreed that privately controlled administrative sources could be a useful source of information especially on business registers. Data collected through surveys by such agencies can serve an important supplement to the official statistics, though such data should be used only when their quality is carefully examined and considered acceptable.

Should a section be added in the text on response burden management?

25. The Group agreed that reduction of response burden be emphasized in the text but modalities to achieve the same may be better left to be included in the best practices.

International recommendations cover both annual and infra-annual statistics yet it contains no treatment of benchmarking. Should a brief discussion on benchmarking be included in the document? And should it recommend that reconciliation between the annual and the infra-annual statistics be done by sectoral statisticians?

26. Benchmarking is needed for all statistics. The Group recommended that sectoral benchmarking should be done by sectoral statisticians and benchmarking at an aggregated and integrated level are done by national accountants. The Group was of the view that reconciliation of micro and macro data is considered desirable and countries are encouraged to do it, but it was recognized that it may not be feasible in many cases.

The section on 'editing' could usefully be extended to the broader concept of significance or selective editing techniques as a tool for focusing efforts where it will make a difference. Should the section on editing be extended as suggested?

27. The Australian Bureau of Statistics would help rationalizing the present text in the document. It was recognized that detailed information on editing should be left to compilation guides or best practices.

Should the section on imputation for addressing non-responses be expanded to discuss other strategies?

28. The Australian Bureau of Statistics would help rationalizing the present text in the document. It was recognized that detailed information on editing should be left to compilation guides or best practices.

Summary of recommendations and conclusions of the proceedings on 18 July 2007

Joint session of the Expert Group on Industrial Statistics and Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics

Dissemination and minimum data sets for international reporting

Should the recommendations on Industrial and Distributive Trade Statistics allow more flexibility in application of confidentiality rules?

29. The Groups emphasized that in most countries the collection and dissemination of statistics is supported by the national legal framework which provide for protection of confidentiality of the data and it was agreed that international recommendations should provide more flexibility in application of confidentiality rules.

Do the Expert Groups agree with the suggested data dissemination timetable, namely: Monthly data – 45 days after the end of the reference period; quarterly data – 3 months; and annual data – 12 months?

30. The Group recommended that countries should be encouraged to disseminate data internationally as soon as they become available for national users and that the following time line are considered as a minimum requirements: for annual data – 18 months; for quarterly data – 3 month; for monthly data – 45 days.

What variables to be included in the minimum list of data items for international reporting?

31. The Group broadly endorsed minimum lists of data items for international reporting as presented in the IRIS and IRDTS draft documents subject to further clarification with respect to inclusion/exclusion of selected items (see para 15); recommended that consistency between the IRIS and IRDTS minimum data lists is ensured. Minimum data lists for international reporting should contain specifications for annual, quarterly and monthly reporting. The index of industrial production (IIP) should be included as the data item for international reporting.

Do you agree that the level of details for international reporting of variables should be as under?

- *Annual data – 3-digit level*
- *Quarterly data – 2-digit level*
- *Data by size class – 2-digit level*

32. The Group recommended that countries should be encouraged to report annual data at the 4-digit level of ISIC Rev. 4 and that the 3-digit level of ISIC Rev. 4 is considered as a minimum requirement; quarterly data is to be reported at the 2-digit level. As regards the dissemination of data on recommended variables by size class, the Group recommended that countries should be encouraged to report the requisite data at 2-digit level and 1-digit (section) level is considered as a minimum requirement.

Expert Group on Industrial Statistics

Performance indicators and Revision of the Manual on Index Numbers of Industrial Production

Which additional performance indicators should be included in the chapter?

33. The Group noted that there are several candidate performance indicators, drivable from the data collected, which could be considered for inclusion. The performance indicators are more for the use of data collected than to do with the framework of industrial statistics. The Group recommended, therefore, that generic description of the performance indicators in the present text serves the purpose. The text however, be modified to exclude the reference to the compilation of performance indicator at the individual statistical unit level.

Which performance indicators should be recommended for international reporting?

34. It was noted that the performance indicators being the derived indicators in nature can always be computed from the data reported to international agencies and therefore, the Group did not recommend any performance indicator for international reporting.

At what level (digit of ISIC) the performance indicators should be recommended to be compiled and reported?

35. Since the Group did not recommend any performance indicator for international reporting, it was felt that it should be left to the countries to decide the levels of details for compilation of such indicators for their internal use.

Does the Expert Group support the proposed contents of the revised Index numbers of industrial production manual?

36. The Group supported the proposed contents and the structure of the revised manual on Index numbers of industrial production (IIP).

Does the Expert Group support the suggested process and timetable to draft, review and release the manual?

37. The Group agreed to the suggested process and time-line for revision of the manual on IIP, namely, December 2007 – complete draft chapters of manual; February 2008- review of draft version 1 by the Expert Group; September 2008 - incorporate changes and circulate version 2 for comment; and December 2008 - submission of final draft to 2009 UN Statistical Commission

Does the Expert Group have any other comments in regard to the revision of the Index numbers of Industrial production manual?

38. The Group did not offer any specific suggestions.

Summary of recommendations and conclusions of the proceedings on 19 July 2007

Joint session of the Expert Group on Industrial Statistics and Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics

UNSD Knowledge Platform on Country Practices for Basic Economic Statistics

Do you agree with the creation of UNSD knowledge base on basic economic statistics?

39. There was a widespread support for the proposed UNSD initiative for creation of a knowledge-base on compilation of basic economic statistics. It was recognized that this would be immensely useful especially to developing countries as a source of reference on experience sharing on all aspects of enterprise statistics including planning and execution of surveys to data collection, compilation and dissemination. It was emphasized that efforts should be made to make use of already available information on the subject with international/regional organisations. Before launching of such an initiative some issues need to be dealt with, like mode of collection of information from countries and organisations; and the language of the available information.

Do you agree with the suggested list of topics?

40. The content and coverage of the suggested topics should be guided by the use. Project of this nature generally has a long time horizon and it is advisable that the views of the countries not represented in the meeting should also be ascertained on the matter. To ensure the constant usefulness of such an initiative, it is imperative that its content should regularly be updated.

Do you have suggestions for coverage of topics?

41. The proposed coverage of topics (see Annex I) received general support of the Group. The Group advised to proceed in steps and evaluate the extent of availability of information on suggested topics to keep it current.

Do you have other suggestions for implementing this proposal?

42. The Group advised that a prototype be developed and tested.

Overall evaluation of the meeting

43. The Group expressed its appreciation for the work done by the UNSD in drafting the IRIS. The Group found organization of joint sessions with the Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics to be a good initiative contributing to quality of discussions and achievement of coordinated and harmonized decisions.

**UNSD Knowledge Platform on Country Practices for Compilation of
Basic Economic Statistics**

Suggested topics

- Needs and uses (relevance)
 - Government needs and uses
 - Business needs and uses
 - Other needs and uses
- Planning and organisation
 - Legislative requirement
 - Advisory committees
 - Publicity program
- Management and budgeting
 - Estimating time tables
 - Budgeting
 - Progress reporting system
 - Quality control
- Questionnaire design and testing
 - Principles of design
 - Instruction for respondents
 - Wording (using business accounting terminology)
- Collection of data
 - Selection of resources –survey versus administrative data
 - Enumeration plan
 - Delineating of collection process (field enumeration, mail out, receipt, treatment of large enterprises)
- Data processing
 - Validation
 - Editing and imputation
 - Coding
 - Warehousing
- Sampling techniques
 - Large enterprises
 - Small (household) enterprises
 - Informal sector
- Creation and maintenance of business register
- Creation and maintenance of area frames
- Data quality frameworks



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION

**Expert Group on Industrial Statistics
Second meeting
New York, 16-19 July 2007**

Agenda

Monday, 16 July 2007

Morning session: 9:00 hrs. – 12:30 hrs.

Joint session - Expert Group on Industrial Statistics and Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics

- 9:00 – 9:30 Registration
- 9:30 – 10:30 (1) Opening statement by Mr. Paul Cheung, Director UNSD
 (2) Objectives and organization of the meetings
 (3) Administrative matters and introduction of participants
- 10:30 – 10:50 *Coffee break*

Expert Group on Industrial Statistics

Chair: Mr. Peter Lys, Canada

- 10:50 – 12:30 (4) Adoption of the agenda
 (5) ***General comments*** on the format of presentation of International Recommendations on industrial Statistics (IRIS)
 (6) ***Introduction*** of the IRIS
 (7) ***Chapter I - Scope of industrial Statistics***
 UNSD presentation
 Discussion
 Conclusions
- 12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch*

Monday, 16 July 2007

Afternoon session: 14:00 hrs. – 17:30 hrs.

Joint session – Expert Group on Industrial Statistics and Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics

Chair: Mr. Paul Sullivan, Australia

- 14:00 – 16:00 (8) ***Chapter – II Statistical units and***
(9) ***Chapter – III Characteristics of statistical units***

UNSD presentation
Discussion
Conclusions

16:00 – 16:20 *Coffee break*

Joint session – Expert Group on Industrial Statistics and Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics

Chair: Mr. Peter Lys, Canada

- 16:20 – 17:00 (10) ***Outsourcing- boundary between manufacturing and wholesaling***

UNSD presentation
Discussion

Expert Group on Industrial Statistics

Chair: Mr. Peter Lys, Canada

- 17.00 – 17.30 (11) ***What defines an international statistical standard and other types of international statistical publications in economic statistics?***

UNSD presentation (for information)

Tuesday, 17 July 2007

Morning session: 9:00 hrs. – 12:30 hrs.

Joint session – Expert Group on Industrial Statistics and Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics

Chair: Mr. Roland Gnoss, Germany

09:00 – 10:00 (12) ***Chapter IV - Data items and their definitions***

Link between basic economic data items to be collected and business accounting

UNSD presentation
Discussion
Conclusions

10:00 – 11:15 (13) ***Chapter IV - Data items and their definitions*** – continued

Integrated list of data items for the IRIS and IRDTS

UNSD presentation
Discussion
Conclusions

11:15 – 11:35 *Coffee break*

Expert Group on Industrial Statistics

Chair: Mr. Roland Gnoss, Germany

11:35 – 12:30 (14) ***Chapter IV - Data items and their definitions*** – continued

Discussion
Conclusions

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch*

Tuesday, 17 July 2007

Afternoon session: 14:00 hrs. – 17:30 hrs.

Joint session - Expert Group on Industrial Statistics and Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics

Chair: Mr. Roland Gnoss, Germany

- 14:00 – 16:00 (15) ***Chapter VI - Data sources and data compilation methods***
UNSD presentation
Discussion
Conclusions
- 16:00 – 16:20 *Coffee break*

Expert Group on Industrial Statistics

Chair: Roland Gnoss, Germany

- 16:20 – 17:30 (16) ***Chapter IV - Data items and their definitions – continued***
Chapter VII - Data collection strategy
UNSD presentation
Discussion
Conclusions

Wednesday, 18 July 2007

Morning session: 9:00 hrs. – 12:30 hrs.

Joint session - Expert Group on Industrial Statistics and Expert Group on Distributive Trade Statistics

Chair: Ms. Maria Eugenia Oliden, Chile

- 09:00 – 10:30 (17) ***Chapter VIII - Dissemination***
UNSD presentation
Discussion
Conclusions
- 10:30 – 10:50 *Coffee break*
- 10:50 – 12:30 (18) ***Chapter VIII (contd.) - Minimum data sets for international reporting***
UNSD presentation
Discussion
Conclusions
- 12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch*

Wednesday, 18 July 2007

Afternoon session: 14:00 hrs. – 17:30 hrs.

Expert Group on Industrial Statistics

Chair: Mr. P. K. Ray, India

14:00 – 15:30 (19) ***Chapter V - Performance indicators***

UNSD presentation

Discussion

Conclusions

15:30 – 15:50 *Coffee break*

15:50 – 17:00 (20) ***Index of industrial production: work –in-progress***

UNSD presentation

Discussion

decisions

Thursday, 19 July 2007

Morning session: 9:00 hrs. – 12:30 hrs.

Expert Group on Industrial Statistics

Chair: Mr. Peter Lys, Canada

09:00 – 12:30 (21) ***Country practices on collection, compilation and dissemination of industrial statistics.***

UNSD introduction

Round table discussion

Conclusions

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch*

Thursday, 19 July 2007

Afternoon session: 14:00 hrs. – 15:30 hrs.

14:00 – 15:30 (22) Evaluation of the meeting

(23) Conclusion of the meeting



**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS**

**Expert Group on Industrial Statistics
Second Meeting
New York, 16-19 July 2007**

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