



## HOW THE GLOBAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM IS DEVELOPING



Dear readers,

Welcome to the community of international official statistics!

The United Nations Statistics Newsletter wants to be the portal to activities that contribute to better official statistics across the world. Better also means: *better used*. We therefore intend to reach out not only to statisticians, but also to users of statistics: governments, politicians, planners, policy analysts, and the business community, stimulating the dialogue between users and producers. All readers of the Newsletter are encouraged to submit their questions and comments.

The Newsletter is not only about activities of the United Nations Statistics Division in New York and the statistical units of the UN regional commissions in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Beirut, Geneva and Santiago de Chile; it also looks at the statistical work of specialized organizations of the UN, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and other important statistics producing organizations such as the European Commission and the OECD.

The main body of the Newsletter will cover upcoming events, recent publications, technical cooperation activities and short reviews of various statistical themes. Supplements will focus on specific areas of statistical work, including national accounts, international classifications and environment statistics. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Willem de Vries,  
United Nations Statistics Division.

There is nothing new about international cooperation between statisticians. In fact, the first international statistical conferences were organized as early as the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, it took quite a while before the contours of a global statistical system became visible. And such a system is still 'work in progress'. One might argue that the global statistical system is perhaps not a system in the true sense of the word, but rather a network. It includes national statistical offices; statistical offices of the United Nations Headquarters, United Nations regional commissions, United Nations specialized agencies (UNESCO, etc), other regional organizations such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and The European Union. In addition, there are informal groups that deal with specific aspects of statistical development (city groups, etc). The International Statistical Institute also plays an important role in the system, bringing together academia and other *(continued on page 3)*

### 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Over 100 countries have participated in the global review of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, undertaken by the United Nations Statistics Division at the request of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

The results will be presented at the Statistical Commission's next session in March 2004, coinciding with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Fundamental Principles by the Commission. *(see details on page 2)*

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>How the Global Statistical System is developing</i>	1
<i>The 10 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics</i>	2
<i>Survival of National Statistical Offices</i>	4
<i>PARIS21 continues</i>	5
<hr/>	
What is going on	
<i>Statistical Capacity Building</i>	6
<b><i>Around the Globe :</i></b>	
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	7
<i>Employment Opportunities</i>	9
<i>Where else to get information</i>	9
<i>Recent Publications and Databases</i>	10

#### STATISTICAL COMMISSION IN 2004

The 35<sup>th</sup> session of the Statistical Commission will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 to 5 March 2004. See details on page 5. ⇨

To receive the next free bimonthly issues of this Newsletter, please SUBSCRIBE at: [esa.un.org/sd/contactPage.asp](http://esa.un.org/sd/contactPage.asp)  
In the future, this Newsletter will be sent to subscribers only.  
*It's easy and free!*

## THE 10 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), at the request of Statistical Commission, undertook global review of the implementation of the principles. Over 100 countries participated in the review. UNSD will present the resulting report at the Statistical Commission's next session in March 2004.



*The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics were adopted by the Statistical Commission in April 1994.*

For more information on Fundamental Principles including countries' best practices:  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/goodpractices/about.asp>

### Principle 1

Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a society, serving the government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honour citizens' entitlement to public information.

### Principle 2

To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

### Principle 3

To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

### Principle 4

The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

### Principle 5

Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.

### Principle 6

Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

### Principle 7

The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

### Principle 8

Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

### Principle 9

The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

### Principle 10

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.



## HOW THE GLOBAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM IS DEVELOPING

(continued from page 1) professionals. And the national statistical offices of all Member States of the United Nations are the foundation of the 'system'. At the 'center' of the network is the Statistical Commission, one of the functional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.


What defines the existence of a global network is the shared belief in a set of common attitudes and characteristics. Given the wide diversity in political, social, and cultural values among the Member States of the United Nations, it is remarkable that there is a set of principles that codifies the shared ethics: the 10 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. In developing and affirming the Fundamental Principles, the national statistical offices recognized that the public will trust official statistics only if the statistical organs adhere to certain professional standards and ethics, recognizing that the quality of official statistics depends largely on the cooperation of citizens, enterprises, and other respondents in providing appropriate and reliable data; and to meet the needs of users, there must be cooperation between users and producers of statistics.

Global issues, including the environment, population growth, migration, refugees, crime, drugs, and spread of infectious diseases do not respect national borders. Around these issues, the primary interest is obtaining information. Uncertainty and false information are the enemies of stability and effective policies. It is impossible for any single country to obtain all of this information by itself; only if countries band together and cooperate is it possible to produce the needed information. This is precisely what the global statistical system is designed to do.

The statistics divisions of international organizations, namely the United Nations and other regional organizations, share a common discipline and a strong commitment to public service. Unlike the national statistical offices, they do not, however,

have a set of principles of official statistics. Their strongest bond comes from a shared commitment to developing and implementing voluntary international standards. Apart from data collection and advisory services to countries, the statistics divisions of international organizations do two things: they develop common classifications, and they develop methods and procedures to measure quantities in question. Classification and methodological work are clearly among the most important functions of official statistics. These international standards are developed and adopted for correct implementation of international agreements. They are also used for standardizing national and international communication and for comparing policies, decisions or other information related to classifications.

The way for any country to act in its own self-interest is to help establish international principles, methods, and standards and to work with other countries to improve the capacity of all nations to provide quality information. Active membership by all in the global statistical system increases the knowledge base, enables research and scholarship, increases the capacity of all statistical offices, and ensures that standards are developed to incorporate the needs of all nations. Moreover, one cannot underestimate the common language that statisticians over the world have developed. It transcends political systems and levels of development and serves to unite people from different countries and cultures.

Finally, there is a simpler, less tangible, but compelling reason for statistical offices to be active partners in the global system: regardless of whether we are individuals, organizations, or nations, we are rewarded by becoming part of something more than just ourselves. We are enriched by the relationships that we develop and the satisfaction of being good international citizens. 

Based on an article by Mr.H.Habermann, previously published in Chance Magazine

*Only if countries band together and cooperate is it possible to produce the needed information.*

*Uncertainty and false information are the enemies of stability whether in the social, political, or economic arena.*

To receive the next free bimonthly issues of this Newsletter, please SUBSCRIBE at: [esa.un.org/sd/contactPage.asp](http://esa.un.org/sd/contactPage.asp) In the future, this Newsletter will be sent to subscribers only.  
*It's easy and free!*

## SURVIVAL OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES

*Provided by the International Statistical Institute (ISI)*



Is your organization ready for ever-increasing changes? Technological developments paired with economic and political changes, as well as innumerable other factors, require us to reinvent ourselves much more quickly than we have previously been accustomed to doing in the past.

Although a great deal of attention has been focused on future developments in the collection, processing and dissemination of official statistics, considerably less attention has been focused on national statistical office management policy to accommodate strategies to deal with such changes.

National statistical offices are presently subject to incredible pressures. With budgets that are being continually restricted, they are aiming to increase efficiency and productivity, reduce institutional bureaucracy, keep up to date with technological advancements, refocus their orientation towards users, maintain the confidentiality of their source data and defend their independence from governments. If national statistical offices do not succeed in their task, their competitors will.

---

### INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY OF STATISTICIANS

Are you interested in participating in an international professional organisation of statisticians?

The International Statistical Institute (ISI), established in 1885, is one of the oldest scientific associations operating in the modern world. Its success can be attributed to the increasing worldwide demand for professional statistical information, its leadership in the development of statistical methods and their application, and in the collective dedication of its members.

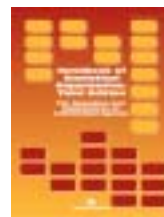
For additional details: <http://www.cbs.nl/isi/>. Also visit the IAOS website at <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/IAOS/index.html>. And the ISI Newsletter website at <http://www.cbs.nl/isi/Newsltr.htm>.

Considering the need to establish practical guidelines to adapt to today's demands, a special conference was organized by the Polish National Statistical Office and the International Statistical Institute (ISI) in Szczecin, Poland, to provide the opportunity for several distinguished speakers, each one of them authorities in their own country, to elaborate upon their individual approaches as to how national statistical offices can structure the essential components that comprise a national statistical system, and lead their organizations to effectively provide the statistical services that are demanded of them.

The resulting proceedings provide many insights of interest to the official statistics community. Proceedings will be available in November 2003 (for 10 euros or 12 US\$ including postage and handling). Please send an e-mail to the ISI Permanent Office at [isi@cbs.nl](mailto:isi@cbs.nl).

---

Also dealing with the fundamentals of national systems of official statistics is the latest revision of the **"Handbook of Statistical Organization, Third Edition: The Operation and Organization of a Statistical Agency"** recently published by the United Nations Statistics Division. Available in print and online at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/statorg/statorg.htm>.



*One of the five Sections of the International Statistical Institute is the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS), promoting the advancement of official statistics and the development of official statistical services.*



## 2004 AGENDA FOR THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

The Statistical Commission was created by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. One of the main goals of the Statistical Commission is to achieve an integrated system of collecting, processing and disseminating international statistics.

Some of its functions are assisting the Council in promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability.


The 35<sup>th</sup> session of the Statistical Commission will be held at the United Nations Headquarters from 2 to 5 March 2004, in New York, USA.

The **Provisional agenda** includes the following topics:

- **Demographic and social statistics**: human settlement statistics; health statistics; social statistics; statistics on drugs and drug use; and poverty statistics.
- **Economic Statistics**: national accounts; information and communica-

tion technologies statistics; service statistics; tourism statistics; international comparison programme; and statistics of science and technology.

- **Natural resources and environment statistics**.
- **Other activities**: presentation of statistical data and metadata; implementation of the fundamental principles of official statistics; international economic and social classifications; statistical capacity-building; common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata; coordination of ongoing methodological work; indicators; follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions; and coordination and integration of statistical programmes.

Documents for the session are being posted on the United Nations Statistics Division web page (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission.htm>). 

---

*One of the main goals of the Statistical Commission is to achieve an integrated system of collecting, processing and disseminating international statistics.*

---



---

***PARIS21** is a global consortium of policy makers, statisticians, and users of statistical information in support of development.*

***PARIS21** aims to build statistical capacity as the foundation for effective development policies by helping to develop well-managed statistical systems.*

---

## PARIS21 CONTINUES



The Steering Committee of the PARIS21 consortium (Partnership in Statistics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) has agreed to renew the mandate of Paris21 for three years. This decision was taken on 1 July 2003, on the basis of an independent evaluation report. The report found that Paris 21's multi-agency task teams and regional workshop program 'had lasting effects in strengthening interactions between statisticians and policymakers' and that 'these efforts have helped countries to respond to the needs for data' in connection with monitoring and developing policies for Poverty Reduction Strategies and Millennium Development Goals.

The overarching goal of PARIS21 is promoting a culture of transparent, evidence-based policymaking in developing and transition countries. In its most recent meeting (15 October 2003) the Steering Committee reviewed the proposed work program for 2004-2006. For more details: [www.paris21.org](http://www.paris21.org)

---

*The United Nations Statistics Division offers free advisory services on Computer and Informatics and on National Accounts .*

---



---

*City groups are groups of volunteer countries, helping the United Nations Statistical Commission to develop statistical methodology in certain subject matter areas. One of them, the Rio Group, works on poverty statistics.*

---

## STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING

### ADVISORY SERVICE ON COMPUTERS AND INFORMATICS

The United Nations Statistics Division currently provides advisory services on computers and informatics **at no cost** to the National Statistical Offices under the United Nations regular program for technical cooperation. The services consist of short-term advisory missions, upon request from governments, to developing countries and countries in transition, in the field of informatics and its application in statistical operations. For further information please contact Mr. Phan T. Pham, Advisor, at the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), New York; Fax. +1-212-963-9851; E-mail: pham@un.org.

### ADVISORY SERVICE ON NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

Advisory services on national accounts are available to National Statistical Offices upon request. With the purpose of assisting the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) and building capacity for national accounts data collection, the advisor is provided for short-term missions to developing countries and countries in transition, in the field of national accounts and satellite accounts. For information and submission of requests please contact the Economic Statistics Branch of the UNSD; Fax. +1-212-963-1374; E-mail: sna@un.org.

### COMING UP:

### UNITED NATIONS POVERTY STATISTICS PROJECT

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) has launched a project to produce a publication on Statistical Concepts, Methods and Policy Use for Poverty Statistics.

The objective is to help countries to better understand the options available for compiling poverty statistics and related information by building up a system of poverty measurement. It will include the countries' experiences accumulated by the Rio Group and four regional workshops to be organized in connection with this project in 2004-2005.

A Steering Committee of 10 experts has been established to oversee the preparation of the publication and advise UNSD on specific technical issues including structure, scope and content of the publication.

For details on the project: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/Poverty/>. For further information contact Ms. Gisele Kamanou at [kamanou@un.org](mailto:kamanou@un.org).

### NEW INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION INDICATORS

The Expert Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on "Measuring Electronic Commerce as an Instrument for the Development of the Digital Economy", held in Geneva on 8-10 September 2003, has proposed to develop a set of key Information and Communication Technology (ICT) indicators that should be collected by as many countries as possible. As a follow-up to the meeting, experts asked the UNCTAD secretariat to establish an online forum, which would allow them to continue their discussion and work towards an agreement on a list of priority indicators for ICT and e-business.

For further information: [www.unctad.org/ecommerce](http://www.unctad.org/ecommerce)

## AROUND THE GLOBE: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5 - 7 November 2003 Rome, Italy  
Meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting, hosted by FAO

The meeting will review the draft chapters of the handbook on Water Resources Accounting currently being prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division and Eurostat. It will discuss methodological and implementation issues of selected resource accounts (e.g. land, forest, mineral and fishery resources). For information please contact Mr. Dominic Ballayan at [dominic.ballayan@fao.org](mailto:dominic.ballayan@fao.org).

10 - 13 November Geneva, Switzerland  
Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting on Millennium Development Goals Indicators, hosted by UNECE

This meeting is organized jointly by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme to discuss problems of data availability and quality for the MDG indicators; and to develop plans for further work on the monitoring process. For further information please contact Ms. Francesca Perucci at [perucci@un.org](mailto:perucci@un.org).

10 - 14 November 2003 New York, USA - Expert Group Meeting to review the United Nations Demographic Yearbook System

The Expert Group Meeting, will be conducted by the United Nations Statistics Division, and will review the *Demographic Yearbook* system and propose necessary changes to the current collection and dissemination of statistics based on a review of the level and breadth of responses obtained from member states, their trends over time, and the effectiveness of the current collection and dissemination strategy.

For details: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/workshops/dyb>

The key issues to be addressed are:

- Data collection: relevance of the variables; content of questionnaires; coordination of questionnaires; and metadata;
- Coverage and completeness: response rates; questionnaire format; and engaging respondents;
- Data dissemination— meeting users' needs: current status, contents, periodicity and dissemination vehicles;
- Future work programme.

17 - 28 November 2003 Brussels, Belgium  
32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System Committee of the World Customs Organization (WCO)

The Committee will consider outstanding issues relevant to finalization of the draft of the 2007 edition of the Harmonized System (HS07). For the draft agenda: [http://www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca/customs/general/publications/hsc\\_agenda-e.html](http://www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca/customs/general/publications/hsc_agenda-e.html)

18 - 21 November 2003 Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso - First meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Regional Development Account Project

The Steering Committee of the ECOWAS Development Account Project will be established and will hold its first meeting to discuss the implementation of the project. A Regional Workshop on Statistical Organization and Management will be conducted as well. For information please contact Ms. Gisele Kamanou at [kamanou@un.org](mailto:kamanou@un.org).



*The United Nations Demographic Yearbook (established in 1948) is the authoritative source of official national statistics on population size, distribution and composition, vital events and international migration.*

## AROUND THE GLOBE: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Acronyms:

**UNSD:** United Nations Statistics Division

**UNECE:** United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

**UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme

**FAO:** Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

**OECD:** Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

**ILO:** International Labour Organization

**MDG:** Millennium Development Goals

24 November - 3 December 2003 Geneva, Switzerland - 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians, International Labour Organization (ILO)

The main objective is to adopt revised international standards on labour statistics. The conference will consider two topics for standard setting: household income and expenditure statistics and consumer price indices. It will also examine a number of issues, such as statistics and indicators of decent work, working time, the informal economy, child labour, gender mainstreaming, occupational safety and health statistics, statistics of disabled workers, social dialogue, the need for revision of International Standard Classification of Occupation (ISCO-88), as well as the past, current and future statistical work of the ILO. For details and available reports: <http://www.ilo.org/stat/>.

4 - 5 December 2003 Geneva, Switzerland - UNECE Work Session on Dissemination of Statistical Commentary and Stories

For details: <http://www.unece.org/>

7 - 11 December 2003 Cairo, Egypt Technical Workshop for Arab States on the implementation of economic characteristics in population censuses

The basis for the workshop will be the UNSD/ILO Technical Report on Economic Characteristics in Population Censuses (question formulations, coding procedures, relevant management concerns). National statistical offices in the region that are currently making preparations for relevant parts of census operations are invited to send two participants to the Workshop. Participants can contact [hoffmann@ilo.org](mailto:hoffmann@ilo.org) or [awad@ilo.org](mailto:awad@ilo.org) for more information.

8 - 10 December 2003 New York, USA Meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications

The Expert Group will review the progress in ISIC (International Standard Industrial Classification) and CPC (Central Product Classification) revisions, based on the report by a technical subgroup, and set priorities. For details: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/intercop/expertgroup/default.htm>

10 - 12 December 2003 Geneva, Switzerland— World Summit on the Information Society – first phase

The World Summit on the Information Society will be held in two phases. The first phase of WSIS will take place in Geneva. The second phase will take place in Tunis, Tunisia, from 16 to 18 November 2005. For details: <http://www.itu.int/wsis/>.

8 - 9 December 2003 Geneva, Switzerland - Statistical Workshop on Monitoring the Information Society

This workshop prior to the World Summit on the Information Society will comprise themes surrounding the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and its official statistics implications. For details: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2003.12.wsis.htm>.

15 - 19 December 2003 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - Regional Workshop on Compilation of National Accounts and their Use for Policy Analysis in African Countries

This workshop will focus on strategies to strengthen capacity in producing national accounts, introducing key elements of the 1993 SNA (System of National Accounts) and a forum of experiences exchange in SNA implementation. Participation by invitation only. For details: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/default.htm>



## AROUND THE GLOBE: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12 - 15 January 2004 Beni Mellal and Rabat, Morocco - International Workshop on Water Resource Accounting,

Jointly organized by the Government of Morocco, UNSD and the Division for Sustainable Development, the workshop will present the first results of the compilation of water accounts in the Oum-Er-Bia river basin to national experts from different line ministries and from 5 other countries in the region. The results of the workshop will serve as a basis for establishing water resource accounts in other river basins in Morocco and in other countries in the region. Participation by invitation only. For details, email: [alfieri@un.org](mailto:alfieri@un.org)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The United Nations currently offers employment opportunities in the Secretariat, Regional Commissions and Specialized Agencies.

For details, please visit the website: <https://jobs.un.org>

## WHERE ELSE TO GET INFORMATION



United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
[www.unescap.org](http://www.unescap.org)



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
[www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org)



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
[www.eclac.cl](http://www.eclac.cl)



United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  
[www.uneca.org](http://www.uneca.org)



United Nations Economic and social Commission for Western Asia  
[www.escwa.org.lb](http://www.escwa.org.lb)

To receive the next free bimonthly issues of this Newsletter, please **SUBSCRIBE** at: [esa.un.org/sd/contactPage.asp](http://esa.un.org/sd/contactPage.asp)  
In the future, this Newsletter will be sent to subscribers only.  
*It's easy and free!*

## PUBLICATIONS

[2003 Statistical Yearbook, 47<sup>th</sup> issue – Print and CD-ROM versions](#) - This annual compilation of statistics for over 200 countries and areas of the world is organized in four parts: world and region summary; population and social statistics; economic activity; and international economic relations. In general, the data presented are those which were available as of the end of January 2003, and whenever possible, cover the ten-year period from 1991 to 2000 or 1992 to 2003. The print version will be available by the end of 2003. Produced by UNSD.

[New edition of the Yearbook "Commonwealth of Independent States in 2002"](#) –Russian and English version. This yearbook prepared and issued by the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) contains official data series for countries of the Commonwealth (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine) for the period 1991-2002. It includes information on gross domestic product, population, employment, prices, money income and expenditure, industrial and agricultural products, consumption of main food products, social sphere, external trade and international comparisons. For details: <http://www.cisstat.com/eng/cd-offst.htm>

Also available is the [New Edition of "Official Statistics of the Commonwealth of Independent States" - CD-ROM](#) English and Russian version which contains more than 3000 socio-economic indicators for 1980-2002. For details: <http://www.cisstat.com/eng/cd-offst.htm>

[Trends in Europe and North America 2003 - UNECE Statistical Yearbook](#) is a compilation of basic socio-economic statistics for the 55 member countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The topics covered include population, families and households, education, employment, economy, health, housing, transport and tourism, energy, environment, communication, participation and crime. The publication is available at the United Nations bookstores and distributors (Sales no. E.03.II.E.42) and on the UNECE Statistical Division's website: <http://www.unece.org/stats/trends.e.htm>

[Global Education Digest 2003: Comparing Education Statistics Across the World](#) –This is the first in an annual series of global statistical reports that provides the latest key indicators from early childhood to higher education. In addition to statistical tables, this report also includes analysis of measures of educational participation, progression and completion. Published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics. For report and database: [www.uis.unesco.org](http://www.uis.unesco.org).

[Literacy Skills for the World of Tomorrow](#) -This report examines findings from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) carried out in the countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2000 alongside of the results of a number of non-OECD countries in 2001. PISA is an assessment of literacy in three domains – mathematics, science and reading – among 15-year-old students. Prepared jointly by UNESCO Institute for Statistics and OECD. To download the full report: [www.uis.unesco.org](http://www.uis.unesco.org)

[Financing Education: Investments and Returns](#) - This joint report looks at issues and trends in education finance in 18 countries (including Brazil, China, India, and Russian Federation) that participate in the UNESCO/OECD *World Education Indicators* programme (WEI). It looks at the links between education, human capital and economic growth and provides a detailed survey of public and private sources of education funding and the mechanisms by which funding reaches schools. For more information: [www.uis.unesco.org](http://www.uis.unesco.org)

[Handbook on Non-Profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts](#) - The Handbook identifies a methodology for breaking out and aggregating the full range of non-profit institutions. It also provides guidelines for the development of a satellite account that presents detailed economic data on non-profit institutions within the framework of the System of National Accounts. Published by UNSD.

---

For details on publications from UNSD:  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/>

Order details on page 12.

## PUBLICATIONS

[Statistical Territories of the World for Use in International Merchandise Trade Statistics](#) provides a detailed description of statistical territories of countries or areas as compared with their customs and geographical territories. Published by UNSD.

[Correlation tables between the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System \(1996 and 2002 editions\) and Classification by Broad Economic Categories](#). Issued by the UNSD.

[Correlation tables between Standard International Trade Classification, and Classification by Broad Economic Categories](#) have been updated. Issued by UNSD. For free download and details : <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/default.asp>

[2000 Energy Statistics Yearbook](#) –Data from 1997-2000 - Published by UNSD.

[The CARICOM Environment in Figures 2002](#) is one of the outputs of the United Nations Project “Strengthening Capacity in the Compilation of Statistics and Indicators for Conference Follow-up in the CARICOM region”. The Project has been jointly carried out by UNSD and the CARICOM Secretariat, and covered the areas of social, gender and environment statistics. The publication presents the major environmental issues in the region and brings together available environment statistics from national, regional and international data sources. For details or for a copy, contact Ms. Reena Shah at [shahr@un.org](mailto:shahr@un.org)

[Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting – SEEA-2003, Handbook of National Accounting Series](#)  
The handbook provides policy-makers with indicators and descriptive statistics to monitor the contribution of the environment to the economy and the impact of the economy on the environment, as well as a database for strategic planning and policy analysis to identify more sustainable paths of development. Available in unedited, pre-publication manuscript format in print, or electronically at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/seea2003.htm>

[Statistical Journal of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#) - The UNECE Statistical Journal covers a wide range of areas of international concern, including economic, social, demographic and environment statistics, standards and classifications, organization and operation of statistical services, etc. The current issue (2003/1) includes articles on agricultural sustainability, household income, census, statistical storytelling, etc. The next issue will concentrate on globalization and measuring the activities of multinational enterprises.  
Subscribe at: [www.iospress.nl](http://www.iospress.nl)

[50 years of the Conference of European Statisticians 1953-2003](#) - The book gives an overview of the 50-year history of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), its major achievements and the new challenges to be met in the future. The Conference has served as a “bridge” between statisticians in eastern and western Europe throughout the Cold War period, discussing and approving statistical standards and classifications, developing the “Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics”, coordinating international statistical work, etc. The book also discusses ideas on how to confront challenges that the CES will face in the future. Available at the United Nations bookstores and distributors (Sales no. E.03.II.E.38).

[World Robotics 2003](#) - The newly released survey *World Robotics 2003* provides an in-depth analysis of current trends and forecasts in robotics. It contains detailed structural analysis of robot investment, the use of robots in manufacturing industries, reasons for investing in robots and detailed statistics on service robots. The publication is produced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with the International Federation of Robotics (IFR). Available at the United Nations bookstores and distributors (Sales No. GV.E.03.0.16).

---

**For details on publications from UNSD:**  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/>

Order details on page 12.



## Editorial Team

Willem De Vries

Vladimir Drjuchin

Fabia Yazaki  
Executive Editor

statisticsnewsletter@un.org



Graphic Design  
Nikolai Drjuchin

This Newsletter is not an official document of the United Nations; it contains unofficial information prepared and disseminated on a regular basis by United Nations Statistics Division for statisticians and users of statistics.

To receive the next free bimonthly issues of this Newsletter, please SUBSCRIBE at:  
[esa.un.org/sd/contactPage.asp](http://esa.un.org/sd/contactPage.asp)

In the future, this Newsletter will be sent to subscribers only.  
*It's easy and free!*

## DATABASES

[The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe \(UNECE\) gender statistics database](#) is now available at the UNECE/ UNDP Gender Statistics Website for Europe and North America. It is part of an on-going project on human development statistics and social trends reporting, carried out by UNDP and UNECE. This website aims to bring together both gender statistics and policies. The main focus is on the production, dissemination and use of gender related data. The site elaborates also on some of the main gender issues relevant to the UNECE region, and provides examples of policies and other initiatives. Access the site and the database at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/>

[New series on producer prices](#) - After a few years of interruption, work on agricultural prices has restarted. A new series on producer prices for the period of 1991-2001 will be disseminated on the FAOSTAT on-line databases. <http://apps.fao.org/default.htm>

[Industrial Commodity Statistics Database 1950 – 2001 – CD version](#) - It contains annual volume data on the production of about 530 industrial commodities by country, geographical region and for the world. Data for the time-period 1992-2001 will also be available in printed form in the [2001 Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook](#) – the yearbook will be available soon. Produced by UNSD.

[Energy Statistics Database 1950 – 2000 – CD Version and Access Database format](#) – Available now, it contains comprehensive energy statistics on more than 215 countries or areas for production, trade, intermediate and final consumption (end-use) for primary and secondary conventional, non-conventional and new and renewable sources of energy. Data on heating (calorific) values are provided as well to enable conversion to a common unit (Terajoules) for inter-

fuel comparison and analyses. Data for the time-period 1997-2000 is also available in printed form in the [2000 Energy Statistics Yearbook](#) – the yearbook has just been published.

[Database on International Statistical Work Programmes in the Region of the UN Economic Commission for Europe \(Integrated Presentation\)](#) - The database represents an important management tool for coordination of statistical activities in the ECE region. Currently it includes the 2003/04 work programmes of about 50 international organizations active in statistics, like the CIS Statistical Committee, Eurostat, FAO, IMF, ILO, ITU, OECD, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNICRI, UNSD, WHO, World Bank, WTO, city groups, etc. It provides information about ongoing projects, expected outcomes, planned meetings, development of standards, etc. Check it at: <http://unece.unog.ch/IntPres/>

---

**Details on UNSD publications or databases:**  
For details: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/>

---

### Ordering Information:

---

**For Orders from North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific:**

United Nations Publications  
Room DC2-0853, Dept. 1004  
New York, N.Y. 10017  
Tel: (800) 253-9646, (212) 963-8302  
Fax: (212) 963-3489  
E-mail: [publications@un.org](mailto:publications@un.org)

**For Orders from Africa, Middle East and Europe :**

Publications des Nations Unies  
Section des Ventes et Commercialisation  
Bureau E-4,  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Tel: +4122 917 2600/2614  
Fax: +4122 917 0027  
E-mail: [unpubli@unog.ch](mailto:unpubli@unog.ch)

**Or visit United Nations Publications at**  
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/sales.htm>