

Data dictionary

A

age group: The age distribution of a population is given either by individual years of age or by age groups, which may be quinquennial age groups or quinary age groups, or broad age groups, such as 0-19 years, 20-59 years, and 60 years and over. Age is generally expressed in years, or years and months. Statisticians often round off the age to the number of complete years lived, and this is called age at last birthday. (United Nations, 1958, para. 322)*.

agriculture (agriculture, forestry and fishing): Comprises the following divisions of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev. 4: crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities, forestry and logging, and fishing and aquaculture. (United Nations, 2008).

agricultural production and food production indices: The indices of agricultural production of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are based on the sum of price-weighted quantities of different agricultural commodities produced. All the indices at the country, regional and world levels are calculated by the Laspeyres formula. Production quantities of each commodity are weighted by the average international commodity prices in the base period and summed for each year. To obtain the index, the aggregate for a given year is divided by the average aggregate for the base period. The commodities covered in the computation of indices of agricultural production are all crops and livestock products originating in each country. Practically all products are covered, with the main exception of fodder crops. The category of food production includes commodities that are considered edible and that contain nutrients. Accordingly, coffee and tea are excluded because they have practically no nutritive value. (FAOSTAT, 2008).

annual growth: See *rate of change*.

area: See *land and water area*.

B

balance of payments: A statistical statement that systematically summarizes, for a specific time period, the economic transactions of an economy with the rest of the world. Transactions, for the most part between residents and non-residents, consist of transactions involving goods, services and income; transactions involving financial claims on, and liabilities to, the rest of the world; and transactions (such as gifts) classified as transfers, which involve offsetting entries to balance—in an accounting sense— one-sided transactions (IMF, 1993, para. 13). See also *current account*.

base period: The period of time for which data used as the base of an index number, or other ratio, have been collected. This period is frequently one year but it may be as short as one day or as long as the average of a group of years. (Kendall Buckland, 1982).

base year: See *base period*.

* References for the data dictionary terms are given in parenthesis and they are listed on page 235.

C

carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a colourless, odourless and non-poisonous gas formed by combustion of carbon and in the respiration of living organisms and is considered a greenhouse gas. Emissions mean the release of greenhouse gases and/or their precursors into the atmosphere over a specified area and period of time. (United Nations, 1992 and 1996).

commercial energy: Energy sold in the market. (United Nations, 1982, para. 55).

consumer price index: Measures changes over time in the general level of prices of goods and services that a reference population acquires, uses or pays for consumption. A consumer price index is estimated as a series of summary measures of the period-to-period proportional change in the prices of a fixed set of consumer goods and services of constant quantity and characteristics, acquired, used or paid for by the reference population. Each summary measure is constructed as a weighted average of a large number of elementary aggregate indices. Each of the elementary aggregate indices is estimated using a sample of prices for a defined set of goods and services obtained in, or by residents of, a specific region from a given set of outlets or other sources of consumption goods and services. (ILO, 2000)

contraception: In its narrow usage, measures excluding sterilization (and, in some discussions, permanent and periodic abstinence) which are taken in order to prevent sexual intercourse from resulting in conception. In broader usage, a contraceptive method is sometimes called a birth control method, which includes intentional abortion, sterilization and complete abstinence from coitus. (United Nations, 1958, para. 624).

currency: Those notes and coins in circulation that are commonly used to make payments. Commemorative coins that are not actually in circulation should be excluded. (United Nations and others, 1994, para. 11.70).

current account: All balance of payments transactions (other than those in financial items) that involve economic values and occur between resident and non-resident entities. Also covered are offsets to current economic values provided or acquired without a quid pro quo. The major classifications of transaction flows cover goods and services, income and current transfers. (IMF, 1993, para. 152).

D

daily newspaper circulation: Daily newspapers are periodic publications, issued at least four times a week, intended for the general public and mainly designed to be a primary source of written information on current events connected with public affairs, international questions, politics etc. Circulation comprises the average number of copies sold directly, by subscription, and mainly distributed free of charge both in the country and abroad. (UNESCO, 1985).

density of population: Number of population per unit of total land area of a country. (United Nations, n.d.). See also *land and water area*.

E

education expenditure: See *government education expenditure*.

employment: The “employed” comprise all persons above a specified age who during a specified brief period, either one week or one day, were in “paid employment” or in “self-employment” as defined below. “Persons in paid employment” comprise all persons in the following categories: (a) “at work”: persons who during the reference period performed some work for wages, salary or related payments, in cash or in kind; (b) “with a job but not at work”: persons who, having already worked in their present job, were absent during the reference period and continued to have a strong attachment to their job. “Persons in self-employment” comprise all persons (a) “at work”: persons who during the reference period performed some work for profit or family gain, in cash or in kind; (b) “with an enterprise but not at work”: persons with an enterprise, which may be a business enterprise, a farm or a service undertaking, who were temporarily not at work during the reference period for any specific reason. Employers, own-account workers and members of producers’ co-operatives should be considered as in self-employment and should be classified as “at work” or “not at work”, as the case may be. (ILO, 2000)

energy: Comprises primary energy from sources that involve only extraction or capture, with or without separation from contiguous material, cleaning or grading, before the energy embodied in that source can be converted into heat or mechanical work, and secondary energy from all sources of energy that results from transformation of primary sources. (United Nations, 1982, para. 29).

energy consumption: Apparent consumption of energy comprises inland deliveries of energy commodities, which is equal to imports plus production minus changes in stocks minus exports. (United Nations, 1982, paras. 161-165). See also *energy*.

enrolment ratio: See *primary-secondary gross enrolment ratio*.

exchange rate: Price in a given currency at which bills drawn in another currency may be bought. (Oxford University Press, 1982).

exports (merchandise): Goods leaving the statistical territory of a country. In the “general trade system”, the definition of the statistical territory of a country coincides with its economic territory. In the “special trade system”, the definition of the statistical territory comprises only a particular part of the economic territory, mainly that part which coincides with the free circulation area for goods. “The free circulation area” is a part of the economic territory of a country within which goods “may be disposed of without Customs restrictions”. In the case of exports, the transaction value is the value at which the goods were sold by the exporter, including the cost of transportation and insurance, to bring the goods onto the transporting vehicle at the frontier of the exporting country (a FOB type valuation) (United Nations, M/52/Rev.2 and Series G).

F

food production index: See *agricultural production* and *food production indices*.

forest and other wooded land: Land under natural or planted stands of trees, whether productive or not, including land from which forest has been cleared but which will be reforested in the foreseeable future, and including areas occupied by roads, small cleared tracts and other small open areas within the forest that constitute an integral part of the forest (FAO/United Nations ECE, 1995).

G

government education expenditure: General government expenditures for educational affairs and services at pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary levels and subsidiary services to education. Expenditures comprise final consumption expenditures, gross capital formation, subsidies and loans. General government comprises all central, state and local government units and non-profit institutions controlled and mainly financed by government units. (UNESCO, 1978).

gross domestic product (GDP) : An aggregate measure of production equal to the sum of the gross values added of all resident institutional units engaged in production (plus any taxes, and minus any subsidies, on products not included in the value of their outputs). The sum of the final uses of goods and services (all uses except intermediate consumption) measured in purchasers' prices, less the value of imports of goods and services, or the sum of primary incomes distributed by resident producer units (42, paras. 1.128 and 2.173-2.174) (United Nations and others, 1993).

gross fixed capital formation: The total value of a producer's acquisitions, less disposals, of fixed assets during the accounting period plus certain additions to the value of non-produced assets realized by the productive activity of institutional units. Fixed assets are tangible or intangible assets produced as outputs from processes of production that are themselves used repeatedly or continuously in other processes of production for more than one year. (United Nations and others, 1994, para. 10.33).

gross national income (GNI) : GNI is equal to GDP less primary incomes payable to non-resident units plus primary incomes receivable from non-resident units. In other words, GNI is equal to GDP less taxes (less subsidies) on production and imports, compensation of employees and property income payable to the rest of the world plus the corresponding items receivable from the rest of the world. Thus GNI at market prices is the sum of gross primary incomes receivable by resident institutional units/sectors. It is worth noting that GNI at market prices was called gross national product in the 1953 SNA, and it was commonly denominated GNP. In contrast to GDP, GNI is not a concept of value added, but a concept of income (primary income). (para. 2.181 of the 1993 System of National Accounts, SNA 1993) (United Nations and others).

growth rate: See *rate of change* and *rate of increase*.

H

homicide purposely inflicted (assault): Deaths from homicide and injuries inflicted by another person with intent to injure or kill, by any means, excluding injuries due to legal intervention and operations of war. (WHO, 1992, X85-Y09).

I

imports (merchandise) : Goods which add to the stock of material resources of a country by entering its economic territory. Goods simply being transported through a country (goods in transit) or temporarily admitted (except for goods for inward processing) do not add to the stock of material resources of a country and are not included in the international merchandise trade statistics. In many cases,

a country's economic territory largely coincides with its customs territory, which is the territory in which the customs law of a country applies in full. In the case of imports, the transaction value is the value at which the goods were purchased by the importer plus the cost of transportation and insurance to the frontier of the importing country (a CIF-type valuation). (United Nations, M/52/Rev.2 and Series G).

industrial production index: Laspeyres's index of total value-added in all industrial production, where value added is the value of output less the values of both intermediate consumption and consumption of fixed capital. (United Nations, Series P). See also *industry* and *Laspeyres's index*.

infant mortality rate: Generally computed as the ratio of infant deaths (the deaths of children under one year of age) in a given year to the total number of live births in the same year. (United Nations, 1958, para. 411).

inhabitants: Inhabitants of a State may be subjects, citizens or nationals of that State, who enjoy certain political rights, or they may be aliens or foreigners who are citizens of another State, or citizens of no State at all and are called stateless. (United Nations, 1958). See also *population*.

Intentional homicides: See *homicide purposely inflicted (assault)*.

L

labour force participation rate is defined as the ratio of the labour force to the working-age population, expressed as a percentage. The labour force is the sum of the number of persons employed and the number of persons unemployed. (ILO, 2000)

land and water area: Total land area comprises agricultural land, forest and other wooded land, built-up and related land (excluding scattered farm buildings), wet open land, dry open land with special vegetation cover and open land without, or with insignificant, vegetation cover. Water area comprises inland waters and tidal waters (United Nations, n.d.).

Laspeyres's index: A form of index number where prices, quantities or other units of measure over time are weighted according to their values in a specified base period (Kendall and Buckland, 1982).

life expectancy at birth: Average number of years of life at birth (age 0) according to the expected mortality rates by age estimated for the reference year and population (United Nations, 1958, and Series R).

N

newspaper circulation: See *daily newspaper circulation*.

O

oil equivalent: A single average figure for the energy content of a specified quantity of oil (United Nations, 1982).

P

parliament: Legislative assembly of persons forming the supreme legislature of a country (Oxford University Press, 1982).

partner countries: Countries of origin and purchase in international merchandise trade transactions (United Nations, 1994, para. 127).

population: The total population of a country may comprise either all usual residents of the country (*de jure* population) or all persons present in the country (*de facto* population) at the time of the census. For purposes of international comparisons, the *de facto* definition is recommended (United Nations, 1958, and Series R).

population density: See *density of population*.

primary-secondary gross enrolment ratio: The total enrolment, regardless of age, divided by the population of the total age group defined in the national regulations for the first and second levels of education. Education at the first level provides the basic elements of education (e.g. at elementary school, primary school). Education at the second level is provided at middle school, secondary school, high school, teacher-training school at this level and schools of a vocational or technical nature. Enrolment is at the beginning of the school or academic year (UNESCO, 1978).

R

rate of change: The ratio of total change in a specified time reference period to the value at the beginning of the period or at a specified earlier time reference. When changes over a period of more than one calendar year are studied, the mean annual rate of change may be computed. (Adapted from United Nations, 1958). See also *rate of increase*.

rate of increase (crude, of population): The ratio of total growth in a given period to the mean population of that period is called the crude rate of increase. When population increase over a period of more than one calendar year is studied, the mean annual rate of increase may be computed (United Nations, 1958). See also *rate of change*.

refugee: Any person who, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it. (United Nations, 1951, and 1967).

region (geographical) : Macro geographical regions arranged according to continents and component geographical regions used for statistical purposes by the Population Division and Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat. (United Nations, M/49/Rev.4).

rural population: Population which is not urban. See also *urban population*.

S

sex ratio: The ratio of the number of one sex to that of the other. (United Nations, 1958).

surface area: See *land and water area*.

T

telephone lines (telephone main lines): A telephone main line connects the subscriber's terminal equipment to the public switched network and has a dedicated port in the telephone exchange equipment (ITU, n.d., p. 9).

temperature, average: Average annual normals over a long (multi-year) period (WMO, 1982).

third-level students: Education provided at university, teachers' college, higher professional school, which requires, as a minimum condition of admission, the successful completion of education at the second level, or evidence of the attainment of an equivalent level of knowledge. Enrolment is at the beginning of the school or academic year. (UNESCO, 1978).

threatened species: Species that have been assessed and found to meet one of the standard World Conservation Union status categories indicating threatened status: endangered, vulnerable, rare, indeterminate (known to be endangered, vulnerable or rare but where there is not enough information to say which is appropriate), insufficiently known (suspected but not definitely known to belong to any of the above categories, because of lack of information) (World Conservation Union, 1994, p. 20).

total fertility rate: The number of children that would be born per woman, assuming no female mortality at child bearing ages and the age-specific fertility rates of a specified country and reference period (United Nations, 1958, para. 634).

tourist (international): Any person who travels to a country other than that in which s/he has his/her usual residence but outside his/her usual environment for a period not exceeding 12 months and whose main purpose of visit is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the country visited, and who stays at least one night in a collective or private accommodation in the country visited (United Nations and World Tourism Organization, 1994).

trading partner. See *partner countries*.

U

unemployment: All persons above a specified age who during a specified reference period were: "without work", i.e. were not in paid employment or self-employment as defined under *employment*; "currently available for work", i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment during the reference period; and "seeking work", i.e. had taken specific steps in a specified recent period to seek paid employment or self-employment. In circumstances where employment opportunities are particularly limited and where persons not working do not have easy access to formal channels for seeking employment or face social and cultural barriers when looking for a job, the "seeking work" criterion should be relaxed. (ILO, 2000)

United Nations membership: The original Members of the United Nations are the States which, having participated in the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco, or having previously signed the Declaration by United Nations of 1 January 1942, signed the Charter and ratified it in accordance with Article 110. Membership in the United Nations is open to all other peace-loving States which accept the obligations contained in the Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able and willing to carry out these obligations. The admission of any such State to membership in the

United Nations will be effected by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council (United Nations, 1945).

Urban agglomeration: Comprises a city or town proper and also the suburban fringe or thickly settled territory lying outside, but adjacent to, its boundaries. A single large urban agglomeration may comprise several cities or towns and their suburban fringes (United Nations, 1998, para. 2.51).

Urban population: Because of national differences in the characteristics that distinguish urban from rural areas, the distinction between urban and rural population is not amenable to a single definition that would be applicable to all countries. National definitions are most commonly based on size of locality (United Nations, 1998).