

Directory of statistical services of international organizations

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

<p>Brief description of the organization¹</p>	<p>Established in 1874, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), based in the Swiss capital Berne, is the second oldest international organization and a specialized agency of the United Nations. With its 192 member countries, the UPU is the leading international organization in the field of postal services and serves as global forum for cooperation between postal sector players. UPU's main objective is to stimulate the lasting development of efficient and accessible universal postal services of quality and to guarantee the interconnection of networks.</p> <p>The International Bureau of the UPU has collected and published postal statistics on a regular basis since its foundation. The first edition of postal statistics appeared in 1875. It constitutes one of the oldest examples of statistics collected and published by an international organization. Since then, the postal statistics have been updated and improved to meet the evolving demands and expectations of member countries. Today, the statistical service is located in the Research and Strategy Programme within the Executive Office of the International Bureau.</p>
<p>Mission²</p>	<p>The statistical service of the International Bureau gathers data on all key dimensions of the postal sector.</p>
<p>Fields of Activity/ Structure</p> <p><i>Statistics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collection, harmonization and dissemination in the field of postal services through annual questionnaires sent to national postal operators and regulators. - Annual time series back to 1980 are available online with over 90 indicators and for around 200 countries or territories. - Real-time data on international postal traffic through UPU's big-data platform. - Technical assistance to member countries in the field of postal statistics, including the development of guidelines and methodological material to improve data collection and quality. - Organization of training courses on the collection of postal statistics.
<p>Mandate</p>	<p>As stated in the UN-UPU Agreements from 1949, the United Nations recognize the UPU as the appropriate agency to collect, analyze, publish, standardize and improve the postal statistics (Article VIII (3), Statistical services). Furthermore, Article III (1) states that the United Nations and the Union agree to cooperate with</p>

¹ Description of the statistics section/department.

² Mission of the statistics section/department.

	a view to securing the greatest possible usefulness and utilization of statistical information.
Statistical work programme	Four-year programme, as decided by the UPU Plenipotentiary Congress. The current programme covers the period 2017-2020 and provides an overview of the objectives, specific actions and expected outputs for the period.
Number of staff	2 full-time staff members responsible of official statistics.
Flagship Publications	Yearbook of Postal Statistics
Website	http://www.upu.int/en/resources/postal-statistics.html

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