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**Availability and quality of short-term economic statistics in the Asian and the  
Pacific Region**

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**THE STATE OF SELECTED SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC STATISTICS IN THE  
ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION**

**PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE ESCAP REGION-WIDE ASSESSMENT OF  
THE CAPACITY OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS IN ASIA AND THE  
PACIFIC TO PRODUCE BASIC ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**ESCAP SECRETARIAT**



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## **A. Background**

1. At the inaugural session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics held in Bangkok from 4 to 6 February 2009, Member States recognized an urgent need for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee requested ESCAP to develop, implement and monitor an action plan (Regional Programme) for the development of economic statistics in the Asian and Pacific region. The Regional Programme will focus on increasing national capacities to produce basic economic statistics. These statistics are critical for compiling a minimum set of national accounts and short-term economic statistics in accordance with international standards and good practices. Under the guidance of the Bureau of the Committee, through close consultation with national experts and in cooperation with key subregional, regional and international partners, ESCAP Statistics Division is working on developing the strategy and main components of the Regional Programme.

2. As a first step, ESCAP Statistics Division developed an Assessment Framework for conducting a Region-wide assessment of the capacity of national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific to produce basic economic statistics. The summary results of the assessment were presented and discussed at the Workshop to Develop a Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand, 9-11 December 2009.

3. The presented paper summarizes the preliminary findings of the region-wide assessment on the state of selected short-term economic statistics in the Asian and Pacific region. The presented paper is an extraction of relevant information from the ESCAP Secretariat papers: *"Preliminary Report on ESCAP Region-Wide Assessment of the Capacity of National Statistical Systems in Asia and the Pacific to Produce Basic Economic Statistics"* and *"Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific"* as presented during the ESCAP December 2009 Workshop.

## **B. ESCAP Region-wide assessment of the capacity of national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific to produce basic economic statistics**

4. The ESCAP Region-wide assessment of the capacity of national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific to produce basic economic statistics was conducted during the period May to December 2009, using an Assessment Framework developed by the Statistics Division in consultation with national and international experts.

5. The main objective of the assessment is to provide some indication of the current capacity of national statistical systems to produce basic economic statistics. The results of the assessment will be used for developing and monitoring the Regional Programme as well as an input to the global 2008 SNA implementation strategy and other purposes.

6. The Assessment Framework was developed on the basis of existing frameworks and reviewed by an expert group. To reduce the burden on the NSSs and utilizing existing data gathered from other international organizations, national websites and other sources, relevant information has been filled in by the ESCAP Statistics Division. In order to get a

comprehensive and accurate assessment of the capacity of NSSs to produce basic economic statistics, countries were asked to validate the presented and fill-in the missing information in the assessment framework.

7. The Assessment Framework consists of 24 subsections grouped into 5 main sections:

- Statistical Capacity Overview
- National Accounts
- Other Indicators
- Seasonal Adjustment
- Results of SIAP Training Needs Survey

8. The assessment covered 58 ESCAP Members and Associate Members in Asia and the Pacific. Country groupings for aggregation purposes (Annex I) follow geography (East and North-East Asia [ENA]; South-East Asia [SEA]; South and South-West Asia [SSWA]; North and Central Asia [NCA]; Pacific) and income distribution (High, Medium, Low income).

9. More information on the assessment is available from: *Report on Preliminary Findings of ESCAP Region-Wide Assessment of the Capacity of National Statistical Systems in Asia and the Pacific to Produce Basic Economic Statistics*<sup>1</sup>.

## **C. State of Selected Short-term Economic statistics**

### **1. Overview**

10. The diversity of countries in the ESCAP region is reflected in the findings of the assessment. Broad coverage and state-of-the-art methodologies adopted by the most developed NSSs coexist in the region with less advanced (both in terms of availability and methodologies) and under-resourced offices where the development of economic statistics is still at an early stage. Pacific and South/South West Asia lag behind in many categories, though several areas (e.g. business registers; seasonal adjustment) are in need of further improvement and assistance throughout the whole region. Below is a short summary of the current state of key economic statistics as well as their key characteristics.

### **2. National Accounts**

11. Only two countries in Asia and the Pacific, do not provide information on National Accounts (Guam and Northern Mariana Islands). All other countries in the ESCAP region compile National Accounts. In the majority of countries (46) the NSO is the organization responsible for compilation. However, there are few cases where they are compiled either by the Central Bank or by a Ministry-Agency or by the NSO in a joint effort with one of the former two.

<sup>1</sup> Presented during the Workshop to Develop a Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand, 9-11 December 2009.

12. The GDP is compiled on annual basis throughout the whole region. Half of the countries produce quarterly GDP series. SSWA, NCA and especially the Pacific are regions where quarterly estimates are seldom compiled and thus mostly not available. Results are summarized in Table 1. Preliminary estimates are delivered within a quarter by 20 countries. Only China, Japan and the Republic of Korea take one month or less to provide preliminary figures.

**Table 1: Availability and Frequency of National Accounts of economic statistics**

	East & North-East Asia (ENE A)	South-East Asia (SEA)	South & South-West Asia (SSWA)	North & Central Asia (NCA)	Pacific	Total
-Total countries	7	11	10	9	21	58
<b>National Accounts</b>						
-Annual	7	11	10	9	19	56
-Quarterly	6	8	4	8	4	30
-Monthly	0	0	0	3	0	3
-Other	0	0	0	0	1	1

13. The norm is to provide GDP estimates by the production approach, usually classified by economic activity, as a base estimate. At the same time, two thirds of the countries compile GDP by expenditure approach. Less frequent is GDP compilation by the income approach, with 24 countries in the region following this method. This pattern is common throughout all ESCAP regions. Current and constant price estimates are generally publicly available. Only some Pacific countries (5) do not provide deflated figures. Chain volume measures are disseminated by five countries, namely Australia, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand and Turkey.

14. Information on the SNA conceptual framework (1968, 1993 and 2008 versions) which countries comply with in compiling their National Accounts is available for 52 ESCAP Members. While 31 countries follow SNA93, 13 (concentrated in SEA and the Pacific) still follow the recommendations outlined in SNA68. Among high-income countries, Brunei Darussalam and French Polynesia continue to follow SNA68, while only Australia and Fiji are adopting SNA2008. Finally, six countries are in the transition from SNA68 to SNA93. The status of SNA implementation in the ESCAP region is shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: SNA implementation**

	East & North-East Asia (ENE A)	South-East Asia (SEA)	South & South-West Asia (SSWA)	North & Central Asia (NCA)	Pacific	Total
-Total countries	7	11	10	9	21	58
<b>Framework used</b>						
- SNA 68	0	5	0	0	8	13
- SNA 68 / 93	0	2	2	0	2	6
- SNA 93	6	3	8	9	6	32
- SNA 08	0	0	0	0	1	1
- Count empty	1	1	0	0	4	6
<b>Plans to implement SNA 2008?</b>						
- Yes	4	2	1	1	3	11
- No	0	1	0	0	1	2
- Count empty	3	8	9	8	17	45



15. In order to assess the degree of implementation of SNA93 according to the scope of the accounts, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) provides information on compliance with the Minimum Requirement Data Set (MRDS) as provided in the latest (2008) and past NAQ (back up to NAQ2005). Within the ESCAP region, half of the countries are able to produce six or more tables (26% delivering seven MRDS tables, 24% six tables). This ranges from 70% in ENEA to 33% in the Pacific, the latter having 8 out of the 10 countries compiling less than three tables. It is worth noting that within the low-income countries there is no clear trend, with the number of tables uniformly distributed throughout the MRDS spectrum (from the 7 tables of Kyrgyzstan and PNG to the 2 tables of Lao PDR).

16. In parallel to the MRDS, milestones represent an alternative means of assessing the level of implementation of SNA93. A summary of milestone definitions is shown in Annex III. Milestone 1 is achieved by 43 countries, Pacific being the region where only half of the countries reach it. All low-income countries but Uzbekistan achieve the minimum standardized level of national accounts, though only half of them reach milestone 2. Overall, 60% of ESCAP Members accomplish the second milestone level. For milestones 3 to 6, there are no publicly available sources assessing country achievements covering the entire region. By analyzing and comparing data and tables available in national websites and publications (supported by country validation), an assessment of milestones beyond phase 2 was carried out. Findings show that milestone 3 add further complexity most countries are not able to deal with. About one quarter of Members, mainly developed countries within each group, are able to reach. Moving towards higher levels the proportion falls, with only few countries presenting advanced institutional sector accounts. Table 3 summarizes milestone levels by subregion.

**Table 3: MRDS and milestones<sup>2</sup>**

	East & North-East Asia (ENEA)	South-East Asia (SEA)	South & South-West Asia (SSWA)	North & Central Asia (NCA)	Pacific	Total
<i>-Total countries</i>	7	11	10	9	21	58
<b>MRDS</b>						
-Table 2.1	6	11	9	9	16	51
-Table 2.2	4	11	10	9	13	47
-Table 1.1	6	10	9	9	12	46
-Table 1.2	5	10	8	6	7	36
-Table 2.3	5	4	6	5	8	28
-Tables 1.3/4.1	6	7	9	7	11	40
-Table 4.2	5	3	3	5	6	22
<b>Milestones</b>						
-Level 1	5	10	10	8	10	43
-Level 2	6	6	8	7	7	34
-Level 3	4	3	1	3	3	14
-Level 4	3	1	0	2	1	7
-Level 5	2	0	0	1	1	4
-Level 6	1	0	0	0	1	2

<sup>2</sup> Tables: Table 2.1: Value added and GDP in current prices by industry; Table 2.2: Value added and GDP in constant prices by industry; Table 1.1: Expenditures of the GDP in current prices; Table 1.2: Expenditures of the GDP in constant prices; Table 2.3: Value added components by industry, current prices; Table 1.3/4.1: Accounts for the total economy; Table 4.2: Rest of the world accounts (until net lending)

Milestones: Phase 1: Basic indicators of GDP; Phase 2: Gross national income and other primary indicators; Phase 3: Institutional sector accounts, first step; Phase 4: Institutional sector accounts, intermediate step; Phase 5: Institutional sector accounts, last of the transaction accounts; Phase 6: Other flow accounts and balance sheet

17. Input-Output tables are not widespread in the region. 19 countries currently compile them, mostly in ENEA and SEA, hardly any in the Pacific. The same situation applies to supply and use tables, the only difference being that the great majority of NCA countries (6 out of 9) compile the latter.

### **3. Selected Economic Indicators**

18. In addition to National Accounts, nine economic indicators in the real and external sectors were included in the assessment. Key findings for these sectors are summarized below. At the aggregate level, the NSO is generally the main organization responsible for the real sector indicators. Regarding the external sector, the BOP is mostly compiled by the central bank (28), while in 14 countries ministries or specialized agencies produce Merchandise Trade statistics. Overall, external trade indicators are those whose compilation is scattered the most in terms of responsible organization throughout the region. Finally, certain indicators, as Merchandise Trade, Employment and Wages statistics, are sometimes the result of joint effort by different entities. Table 4 summarizes the availability of the 9 selected indicators whereas Table 5 shows their frequency.

19. Employment/Unemployment. Monthly statistics are delivered by 14 countries; nearly half are able to produce quarterly estimates, whereas two thirds compile annual data. Lower frequency and occasional statistics are released by 14 countries, mostly in the Pacific. ILO recommendations are followed by the majority of countries (40). Concerning classifications, ISIC and ISCO are widely used (37 and 39, respectively), while the ISCE is less frequently used (26). LFS is the most common source, though many Pacific countries have register-based data.

20. Wages/Earnings. The frequency pattern roughly follows the Employment / Unemployment statistics periodicity, however with less information publicly available on their compilation and dissemination practices. ISIC is the most adopted classification. Wages are prevalently presented as monthly averages and in some cases weekly.

21. Consumer Price Index. Apart from a small number of instances (Islamic Republic of Iran, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand), CPI is compiled exclusively by the NSO. The great majority of countries (approximately 70%) compile monthly CPIs. 11 Pacific countries have lower frequency data, normally quarterly. The CPI Manual represents the most widespread international standard (31 out of 36). Items are classified by COICOP by roughly half of the countries, the others being non-harmonized or not providing information. Of countries which provide metadata on methods and practices, 82% use a Laspeyres method.

22. Producer Price Index. In the region PPI is less commonly compiled than CPI (34). Only one third of Pacific countries have PPI or equivalent indexes. Other areas show more homogeneous results, each boasting a high proportion of Member countries with an index tracking prices of goods and services at their first production stage. 60% of the NSSs having PPI statistics deliver monthly statistics, the rest being mainly quarterly. The PPI Manual is seldom used as the main international standard. The most adopted classification is ISIC, the index covering either categories C (Mining and quarrying), D (Manufacturing) and E (Electricity, gas and water supply) or selected industries. Laspeyres method is most frequently used.

23. Industrial Production Index. The partial availability of IPI is largely a result of the unsurprisingly low proportion of Pacific countries (7) compiling it. Most of the Pacific island countries are economies characterized by a low and/or incipient industrial base, which explains the low priority assigned to the compilation of IPI. The frequency, classification and industrial coverage patterns are broadly in line with PPI's. China does not compile any index of industrial production.

24. Retail Trade Turnover. Indicators on sales turnover are not well developed in Asia and the Pacific. In the Pacific, apart from Australia and New Zealand, only Cook Islands, Fiji and Samoa have retail trade indicators. Low proportions are present even in SSWA (Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey), whereas all NCA members (except Turkmenistan) and ENEA (but DPRK) publish such indicators. Frequency is mostly annual, though quarterly statistics are available for more than 60% of NSOs. Finally, half of the countries release monthly figures. Publicly available metadata on Retail Trade Turnover, as for Volume/Turnover in Services, is very limited.

25. Volume/Turnover in Services. The only region with extensive availability of indicators on volume/turnover in services is NCA (7). As for the others, only the most developed countries within each region compile disaggregated measures on services. Where available, figures are mainly annual.

26. Merchandise Trade. All ESCAP countries provide more or less detailed data on exports and imports with international partners. In many instances its compilation is the result of a joint effort of the NSO and/or central bank and/or ministry or specialized agency. Frequency is predominantly monthly in all regions but Pacific, where figures are mostly quarterly, or annual. The most common classification is the Harmonized System (33), followed by SITC (25). Customs data is the principal source of information for the compilation of Merchandise Trade statistics (43), surveys being used only in some cases.

27. Balance of Payments. Besides one third of Pacific islands, DPRK and Lao PDR are the only countries which do not go beyond trade balance. BPM5 is broadly followed as the conceptual framework and classification. Monthly compilation is rare, while 70% of countries provide quarterly estimates. Almost every country compiling a BOP compiles financial account, while the international investment position is separately presented by half of the countries. Statistics are seasonally adjusted by six developed countries.

**Table 4: Availability economic statistics**

	East & North-East Asia (ENE A)	South-East Asia (SEA)	South & South-West Asia (SSWA)	North & Central Asia (NCA)	Pacific	Total
-Total countries	7	11	10	9	21	58
<b>National Accounts</b>						
- Yes	7	11	10	9	19	56
- No	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Employment / Unemployment</b>						
- Yes	7	11	10	8	21	57
- No	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Wages / Earnings</b>						
- Yes	6	8	6	8	20	48
- No	1	3	4	1	1	10
<b>Consumer price index</b>						
- Yes	6	11	10	8	21	56

	East & North-East Asia (ENE A)	South-East Asia (SEA)	South & South-West Asia (SSWA)	North & Central Asia (NCA)	Pacific	Total
- No	1	0	0	1	0	2
<b>Producer price index</b>						
- Yes	5	8	8	7	7	35
- No	2	3	2	2	14	23
<b>Retail trade turnover</b>						
- Yes	6	5	2	8	5	26
- No	1	6	8	1	16	32
<b>Industrial production index</b>						
- Yes	5	8	8	8	7	36
- No	2	3	2	1	14	22
<b>Volume / turnover in services</b>						
- Yes	2	3	2	7	1	15
- No	5	8	8	2	20	33
<b>Merchandise trade</b>						
- Yes	7	11	10	9	21	58
- No	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Balance of payments</b>						
- Yes	6	9	10	9	14	48
- No	1	2	0	0	7	10

**Table 5: Frequencies of economic statistics**

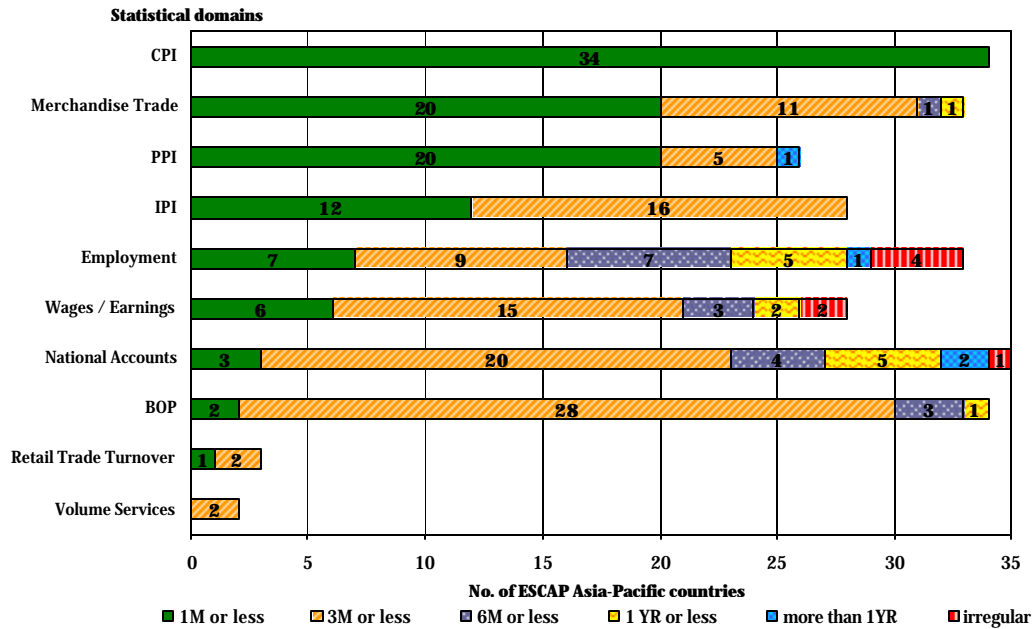
	East & North-East Asia (ENE A)	South-East Asia (SEA)	South & South-West Asia (SSWA)	North & Central Asia (NCA)	Pacific	Total
<i>-Total countries</i>	7	11	10	9	21	58
<b>National Accounts</b>						
-Annual	7	11	10	9	19	56
-Quarterly	6	8	4	8	4	30
-Monthly	0	0	0	3	0	3
-Other	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Employment / Unemployment</b>						
-Annual	6	8	8	7	12	41
-Quarterly	6	5	3	7	6	27
-Monthly	4	2	2	4	2	14
-Other	1	3	1	0	11	16
<b>Wages / Earnings</b>						
-Annual	4	6	1	8	17	36
-Quarterly	6	4	2	7	6	25
-Monthly	1	1	2	6	1	11
-Other	0	2	3	0	1	6
<b>Consumer price index</b>						
-Annual	6	10	8	7	20	51
-Quarterly	6	10	7	7	20	50
-Monthly	6	11	8	7	9	41
-Other	0	0	1	1	0	2
<b>Producer price index</b>						
-Annual	5	6	6	7	3	27
-Quarterly	5	6	5	7	3	26
-Monthly	3	5	5	7	0	20
-Other	0	1	1	0	0	2
<b>Retail trade turnover</b>						
-Annual	6	4	2	8	3	23
-Quarterly	4	2	1	5	3	15
-Monthly	3	2	1	4	2	12

	East & North-East Asia (ENE A)	South-East Asia (SEA)	South & South-West Asia (SSWA)	North & Central Asia (NCA)	Pacific	Total
-Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Industrial production index</b>						
-Annual	4	7	5	7	6	29
-Quarterly	4	7	5	7	5	28
-Monthly	3	6	5	6	0	20
-Other	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Volume / turnover in services</b>						
-Annual	2	2	2	6	1	13
-Quarterly	2	3	2	3	1	11
-Monthly	2	1	0	3	0	6
-Other	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Merchandise trade</b>						
-Annual	6	11	10	8	20	55
-Quarterly	5	7	7	7	14	40
-Monthly	6	10	8	7	7	38
-Other	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Balance of payments</b>						
-Annual	6	10	10	7	14	47
-Quarterly	5	7	8	7	6	33
-Monthly	2	0	4	0	1	7
-Other	1	0	0	0	0	1

#### 4. Timeliness

28. Chart 1 shows aggregate results for timeliness of the selected economic statistics covered in the assessment. Information is mainly based on IMF sources. 34 countries disseminate CPI statistics, within one month after the end of the reference period. Similarly PPI statistics are disseminated within one month, though 6 out of 26 countries take more than one month to do so. Timeliness of labour indicator varies across the region; Wages/Earnings are disseminated in one to three months by 15 out of 28 countries. BOP is mostly available in one to three months, whilst Merchandise Trade is released within one month by 60% of ESCAP Members. IPI statistics are disseminated one month or less and in one to three months by 12 and 16 countries respectively.

**Chart 1 – Timeliness by statistical domain**

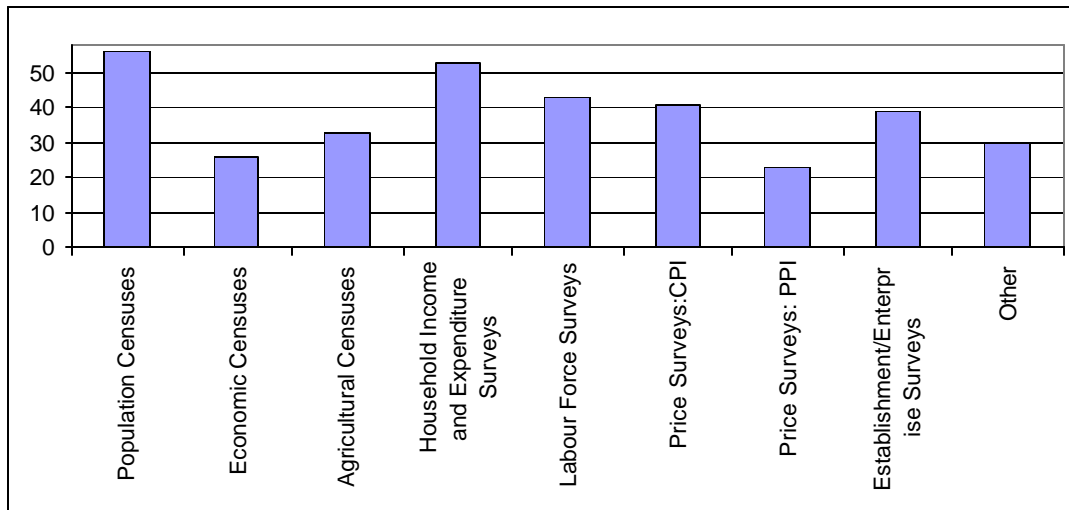


## 5. Availability of data sources

29. Censuses. All countries carry out a Population Census (mostly every 10 years), apart from Afghanistan and Myanmar, whose last censuses dates back to 1979 and 1983 respectively. Furthermore, an Economic Census and Agricultural Census are performed by 26 and 33 countries respectively, both with intervals of five or ten years. The former is rarely present in NCA and, expectedly, in the Pacific.

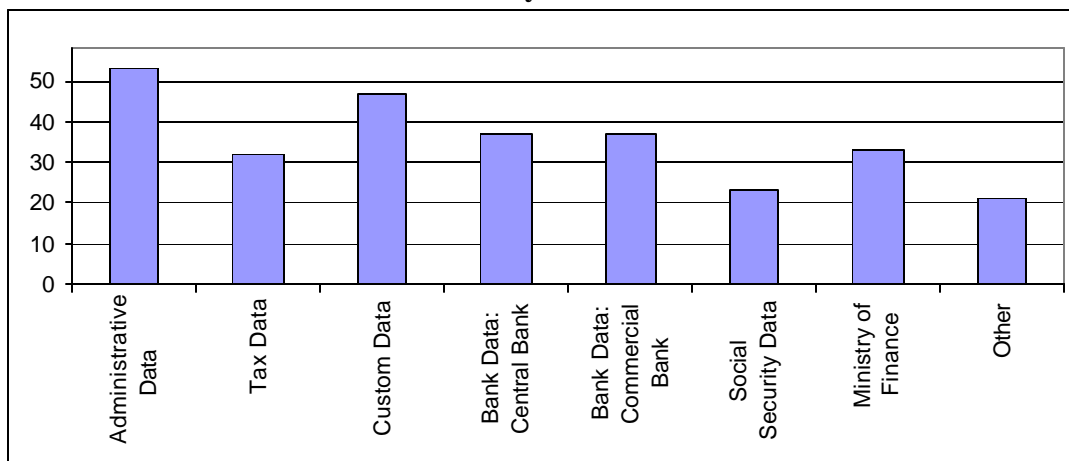
30. Surveys. Households and Income Expenditure Surveys (HIES), Labour Force Surveys (LFS) and Establishment/Enterprise Surveys are commonly used in the whole area. Economic Census and Establishment/Enterprise Surveys are less frequently conducted in the Pacific. Chart 2 summarized the availability of Censuses and Surveys.

**Chart 2 – Availability of Censuses and Surveys**



31. Administrative data. Not much information is publicly available on national use of administrative data for compiling economic statistics. Customs data are widely utilized, especially for Merchandise trade Statistics. Roughly half of the countries directly state that they use tax and bank (both central and commercial) data. Chart 3 summarizes the availability of administrative data.

**Chart 3 – Availability of administrative data**



## 6. Business registers

32. Business Registers (BR). 34 countries have a more or less developed BR or statistical frames. All NCA countries (no information for Turkmenistan) use a BR for statistical purposes, this in parallel with the weak utilization of the Economic Census. Nonetheless, the Economic Census should be also used as a source for the BR itself, not a substitute. The opposite situation occurs for SSWA, where BRs are seldom present (3), SEA and the Pacific, where information on the availability of BR throughout the region (though partial)

should be supplemented and compared with the undisclosed quality dimension. A graphical representation of these results is presented in Chart 3.

**Table 3: Business registers**

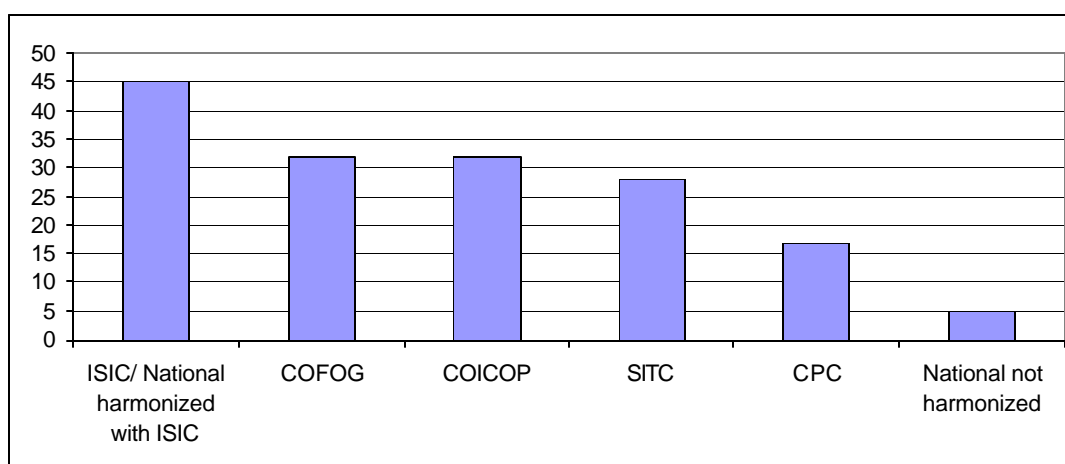
	East & North-East Asia (ENE A)	South-East Asia (SEA)	South & South-West Asia (SSWA)	North & Central Asia (NCA)	Pacific	Total
<b>Business registers</b>						
Existence						
- Yes	5	6	3	8	12	34
- No	1	4	6	0	9	20
- Count empty	1	1	1	1	0	4
- Total	7	11	10	9	21	58
Used for Econ. Stats.						
- Yes	4	3	0	3	10	27
- No	0	0	0	0	0	0
- Count empty	3	8	10	6	11	38
- Total	7	11	10	9	21	

## 7. Classifications

33. Out of the 58 ESCAP Members and Associate Members, 45 comply with the International Standard of Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), or a national classification harmonized with it. Among those providing information on the version followed (24), two thirds are harmonized with ISIC Rev. 3.

34. The Balance of Payments is mostly compiled in accordance with BPM5 (46 countries). Regarding other international classifications, approximately half of the countries state that they follow COICOP, COFOG and SITC. Nevertheless, 14 out of 45 countries do not use COICOP or national classification harmonized with it. Finally, use of CPC is not widespread in ESCAP region. Chart 4 summarizes the classifications used in the region.

**Chart 4 – Classifications used**





## 8. Seasonal Adjustment

35. Out of the 58 ESCAP Members and Associate Members, 16 (28%) seasonally adjust their economic statistics. The seasonal adjustment is rarely performed in SSWA and Pacific regions, though in general less than half of the countries in each region (the only exception being ENEA, with four out of the seven countries) have sufficient capacity to do it. No low-income country performs seasonal adjustment. Within the countries that seasonally adjust their statistics, twice as many countries adjust the National Accounts as BOP statistics. Based on the limited information, it can be concluded that X-12 ARIMA is the most commonly used method (14 out of 17), with 3 countries using X11-ARIMA and one country using the TRAMO/SEATS. Likewise most countries use the Census Bureau's X-12 ARIMA software with only one country using Bank of Spain's TRAMO/SEATS and surprisingly no countries reporting usage of Demetra. Charts 5 and 6 summarize these findings.

Chart 5 – Seasonal adjustment methods

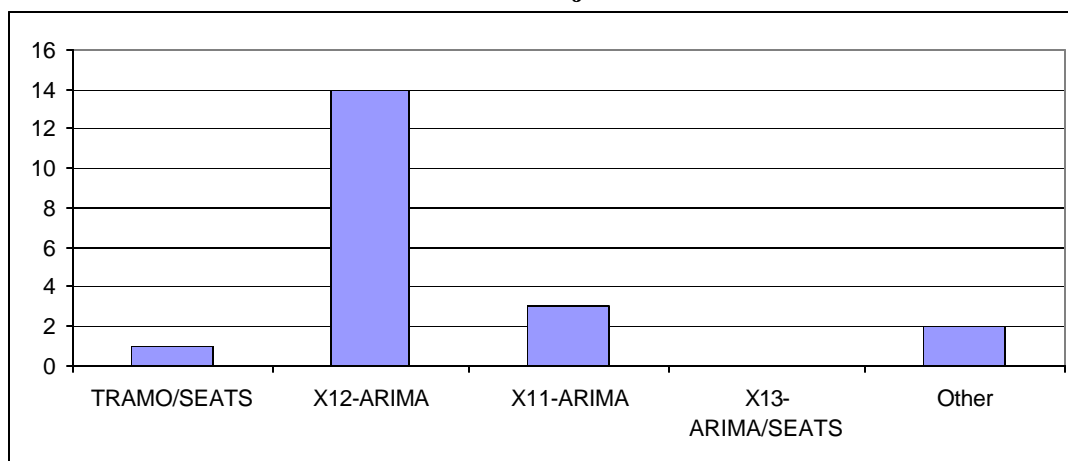
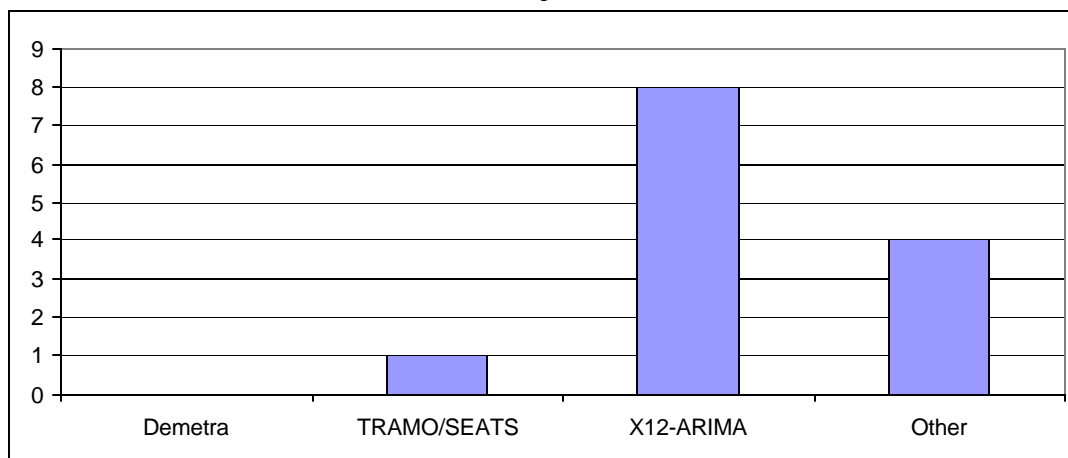


Chart 6 – Seasonal adjustment software used



## **D. Conclusion**

36. The assessment's key findings are:

- Pacific and SSWA are ESCAP subregions lagging behind most in multiple statistical dimensions (infrastructure, resources, availability of indicators, methodologies and international standards followed).
- Certain areas and factors represent a common weakness throughout the whole region (e.g. business registers, seasonally adjusted figures, low statistics frequency).
- National Accounts are compiled by the great majority of countries, half of which provide quarterly estimates. SNA68 is still the reference framework for a sizeable proportion of countries in South-East Asia and the Pacific.
- Other economic indicators are compiled by countries at varying degree. External Trade indicators are extensively covered, as are Labour Force indicators and Consumer Price Index. Conversely, Producer Price Index and Industrial indicators are not widespread.
- Availability of sub-annual statistics is limited and in particular the proportion of countries which disseminate monthly economic statistics is quite small.

**ANNEX I. ESCAP COUNTRY GROUPINGS BY GEOGRAPHY AND INCOME**

<b>East &amp; North-East Asia (ENA)</b>	<b>South-East Asia (SEA)</b>	<b>South &amp; South-West Asia (SSWA)</b>	<b>North &amp; Central Asia (NCA)</b>	<b>Pacific</b>
China	Brunei Darussalam	Afghanistan	Armenia	Australia
DPR Korea	Cambodia	Bangladesh	Azerbaijan	American Samoa
Hong Kong, China	Indonesia	Bhutan	Georgia	Cook Islands
Japan	Lao PDR	India	Kazakhstan	Fiji
Macao, China	Malaysia	Iran (Islamic Rep.)	Kyrgyzstan	French Polynesia
Mongolia	Myanmar	Maldives	Russian Federation	Guam
Republic of Korea	Philippines	Nepal	Tajikistan	Kiribati
	Singapore	Pakistan	Turkmenistan	Marshall Islands
	Thailand	Sri Lanka	Uzbekistan	Micronesia (F.S.)
	Timor-Leste	Turkey		Nauru
	Vietnam			New Caledonia
				New Zealand
				Niue
				N. Mariana Is.
				Palau
				Papua New Guinea
				Samoa
				Solomon Islands
				Tonga
				Tuvalu
				Vanuatu

## ANNEX II. STATUS OF ASSESSMENT VALIDATION BY MEMBERS

<i>ESCAP Asia-Pacific members</i>	<i>Assessment validated</i>
Afghanistan	
American Samoa	
Armenia	▼
Australia	▼
Azerbaijan	
Bangladesh	
Bhutan	▼
Brunei Darussalam	
Cambodia	
China	
Cook Islands	
Fiji	▼
French Polynesia	
Georgia	
Guam	
Hong Kong, China	▼
India	▼
Indonesia	
Iran	▼
Japan	▼
Kazakhstan	▼
Kiribati	
Korea, Dem. Rep.	
Korea, Republic of	▼
Kyrgyzstan	
Lao, PDR	
Macao, China	▼
Malaysia	▼
Maldives	▼
Marshall Islands	
Micronesia, Federated States of	
Mongolia	▼
Myanmar	
Nauru	
Nepal	
New Caledonia	
New Zealand	▼
Niue	
Northern Mariana Islands	
Pakistan	
Palau	
Papua New Guinea	
Philippines	
Russian Federation	
Samoa	▼
Singapore	▼
Solomon Islands	
Sri Lanka	▼
Tajikistan	
Thailand	▼
Timor-Leste	▼
Tonga	▼
Turkey	
Turkmenistan	
Tuvalu	
Uzbekistan	
Vanuatu	
Viet Nam	▼
<b>ESCAP Total</b>	<b>22</b>

## ANNEX III. MILESTONES DEFINITION

MILESTONES		
Milestones for SNA implementation as developed by the ISWGNA to assess the state of national accounting in individual countries and progress made over time		
Phase 1	Basic indicators of GDP	Final expenditures on GDP at current and constant prices; GDP by industry at current and constant prices
Phase 2	Gross national income and other primary indicators	External account of primary incomes and current transfers; capital and financial accounts for the rest of the world*
Phase 3	Institutional sector accounts: 1st step	Production accounts for all institutional sectors; generation of income, allocation of primary income, secondary distribution of income, use of income, capital and financial accounts for general government
Phase 4	Institutional sector accounts: intermediate step	Generation of income, allocation of primary income, secondary distribution of income, use of income, capital accounts for all institutional sectors other than general government
Phase 5	Institutional sector accounts: last of the transaction accounts	Financial accounts for all institutional sectors other than general government
Phase 6	Other flow accounts and balance sheet	Other changes in assets accounts for all institutional sectors; balance sheet

### MILESTONES GLOSSARY

*Production account*: records the activity of producing goods and services as defined within the System. Its balancing item, gross value added, is defined as the value of output less the value of intermediate consumption and is a measure of the contribution to GDP made by an individual producer, industry or sector. Gross value added is the source from which the primary incomes of the System are generated and is therefore carried forward into the primary distribution of income account. Value added may also be measured net by deducting consumption of fixed capital

*Generation of income*: shows the types of primary incomes and the sectors, sub-sectors or industries in which the primary incomes originate, as distinct from the sectors or sub-sectors destined to receive such incomes

*Allocation of primary income*: focuses on resident institutional units or sectors in their capacity as recipients of primary incomes rather than as producers whose activities generate primary incomes; it lists two kinds of income under "resources": (a) primary incomes already recorded in the generation of income account that are receivable by resident institutional units, and (b) property incomes receivable from the ownership of financial or tangible non-produced assets (mainly land or sub-soil assets).

*Secondary distribution of income*: shows how the balance of primary incomes of an institutional unit or sector is transformed into its disposable income by the receipt and payment of current transfers excluding social transfers in kind.

*Use of income*: shows how incomes are eventually used by households, government units or non-profit institutions serving households (NPISHs) for purposes of final consumption or saving.

*Capital account*: records the values of the non-financial assets that are acquired, or disposed of, by resident institutional units by engaging in transactions and to show the change in net worth due to saving and capital transfers. The transactions may be either with other institutional units, both resident and non-resident, or internal transactions in which units retain for their own use assets that they have produced themselves. The account does not, however, cover changes in the volume of non-financial assets owned by units that do not result from transactions, these being recorded in the other changes in volume of assets account

*Financial account*: records transactions that involve financial assets and liabilities and that take place between institutional units and between institutional units and the rest of the world

*Other changes in assets account*: consists of two sub-accounts, the other changes in volume of assets account and the revaluation account; it records changes in the values of assets, liabilities, and net worth between opening and closing balance sheets that result from other flows, i.e. flows that are not transactions. The first, the other changes in volume of assets account, records changes in the amounts of the assets and liabilities held by institutional units or sectors as a result of factors other than transactions; for example, destruction of fixed assets by natural disasters. The second, the revaluation account, records those changes in the values of assets and liabilities that result from changes in their prices.

*\*Rest of the world account*: comprises those categories of accounts necessary to capture the full range of transactions that take place between the total economy and the rest of the world. Specifically, they are: (a) The external account of goods and services; (b) **The external account of primary incomes and current transfers**; (c) The external accumulation accounts, consisting of: (i) The **capital account**, covering transactions involving capital transfers and acquisitions less disposals of non-produced non-financial assets; (ii) The **financial account**, covering transactions in financial assets and liabilities; (iii) Other changes in volume of assets account, covering uncompensated seizures, etc.; and (iv) Revaluation account, covering nominal holding gains and losses (accounts (iii) and (iv) reflect those changes (flows) in external assets and liabilities that are not attributable to transactions); and (d) The external assets and liabilities account, which presents the opening and closing balance sheets and the changes in the value of those assets and liabilities between the opening and closing balance sheets.