

**International Seminar on Timeliness, Methodology and Comparability of
Rapid Estimates of Economic Trends
May 27 – 29, 2009, Ottawa, Canada
Agenda**

Wednesday, May 27 – Ballroom C (Lower Level)

8:30 Registration – Ballroom C Foyer (Lower Level)

Session 1 Opening

9:30 *Opening of seminar and welcoming remarks*
Munir A. Sheikh, Chief Statistician of Canada
Paul Cheung, Director, United Nations Statistics Division
Pieter Everaers, Director, External cooperation, communication and key indicators,
Eurostat

10:00 Opening address: *Tracking Economic and Financial Developments in the Current
Global Recession: A Policy Perspective*
Robert A. Wright
Deputy Minister of Finance
Canada

10:30 Key note: *The Information We Need when Economies Go Bad*
Don Drummond,
Chief Economist of Toronto Dominion Bank
Canada

11:00 Coffee break¹

Session 2 Policy applications of rapid estimates as official statistics

Chair: Ibrahim Levent, World Bank

11:30 *Policy applications of business cycle indicators in time of crisis*
Ataman Ozyildirim – The Conference Board

The availability, timeliness and quality of rapid estimates: The case of Mongolia
Gerelt-Od Ganbaatar – Mongolia

*The quest for early indicators of turning points in economic conditions: how the
official statistics is involved?*
Gian Paolo Oneto – Italy

Timely statistics for monetary policies
Werner Bier – European Central Bank

¹ Coffee breaks of 30 minutes are at 11:00 in the morning and 16:00 in the afternoon. Refreshments will be served in the foyer outside the Plenary Room.

Plenary discussion

13:00 Lunch – Pinnacle Room (Penthouse Level)

Session 3 The availability, timeliness and quality of rapid estimates

Chair: Karen Wilson, Statistics Canada

14:30 Discussant: Michel Girard
Discussant: Amal Kanti Ray
Discussant: Teck Wong Soon
Supplementary commentaries by contributors of the supporting papers
Plenary discussion

Supporting papers

Principal European Economic Indicators: Flash Estimates of European Aggregates
Roberto Barcellan – Eurostat

Availability of economic short-term statistics and the production of Flash Estimates of GDP in the CIS, Mongolia and the Western Balkan Countries
Lidia Bratanova – UNECE

Measuring economic trends with the business cycle tracer
Geert Bruinooge – The Netherlands

Quarterly national accounts – Timeliness, accuracy and reliability?
Abderrahmane Kacemi – Morocco

High frequency statistics used by the BIS in monitoring and research of the economic and financial crisis
Gert Schnabel – Bank for International Settlements

Major short term economic statistics released in India and future plans
Ramesh Kolli – India

Progress of the Interagency Group on Economic and Financial Crisis - the Principal Global Indicators website and data gap analysis to meet the statistical needs of analysts and policy makers
Lucie Laliberte – IMF

The availability, timeliness and quality of rapid estimates UNCTAD's experience
Henri Laurencin – UNCTAD

The recent extension of the Quarterly External Debt Statistics to GDDS countries
Ibrahim Levent – World Bank

Statistics Kazakhstan's response to changes in economic situation
Anar Meshimbayeva – Kazakhstan

Which data are useful for estimating flash economic trends?
Kyung Sam Min – South Korea

The Cameroon methodology of national accounts estimates
Nepetsoun – Cameroon

Impact of Global Economic Crisis on Some Economic Indicators
Reda Nagib Soliman – Egypt

A Projection for the Indonesian Economic Growth in 2009
S. Sutomo - Indonesia

Availability, timeliness and quality of rapid estimates of the BEA
David Wasshausen – USA

The availability, timeliness and quality of rapid estimates - The Case of Canada
Karen Wilson –Canada

18:30 Close

Thursday, May 28 – Grand Salon (Convention Level)

Session 4 Extrapolation, modelling, econometric and sampling techniques used in the preparation of rapid estimates

Chair: Pieter Everaers, Eurostat

9:00 Discussant: David Wasshausen
Discussant: Geert Bruinooge
Discussant: Ramesh Kolli
Supplementary commentaries by contributors of the supporting papers
Plenary discussion

Supporting papers

Economic Projection at NESDB
Wichhayayuth Boonchit – Thailand

Improving statistical timeliness or short term forecast: A French institutional experience
Alain Chappert – France

Official Short Term Indicators – Reflection of Economic Reality
Harry Estay – Chile

Monthly estimate of GDP in Peru
Jose Alberto Garcia-Zanabria – Peru

Canadian Monthly GDP Estimates
Michel Girard – Canada

Challenges for estimating and forecasting macroeconomic trends during financial crises
Pingfan Hong – United Nations, DPAD/DESA

A system of rapid estimates to improve real time monitoring of the economic situation: the case of Euro area
Gian Luigi Mazzi and Gaetana Montana – Eurostat

Use of surveys in central banks', with special reference to India
Amal Kanti Ray – Reserve Bank of India

Experience in quickly estimating the impact of financial crisis on the labour market
Valentina Stoevska and David Bescond – ILO

Singapore's Advance GDP Estimates
Teck Wong Soon and Swee Lin Low – Singapore

Possible rapid indicators to measure changes in economic trends
 Kees Zeelenberg – The Netherlands

13:00 Lunch – Pinnacle Room (Penthouse Level)

Session 5 New requirements and the way forward

Chair: Henri Laurencin, UNCTAD

14:30 *The assessment of dissemination practices for economic and financial statistics: availability, timeliness, comparability of high frequency statistics and their accelerated first estimates in measuring the trends of the world crisis*
 Ivo Havinga – United Nations, UNSD/DESA

The “EU Project on Flash estimates”
 Dominique Ladiray and Fabio Bacchini – France

16:30 *Break-out sessions*

Break out groups, each with a moderator (international organizations) and facilitator (Statistics Canada) to guide the discussions. At the start of the seminar participants will be requested to subscribe to his/her preferred group. Subscription to each group is limited to the number of participants divided by the number of groups.

Breakout (Room)	Topic	Organizations
1 (Victoria Room – Lower Level)	National accounts and production indicators	UNSD, UNCTAD, UNESCAP Statistics Canada
2 (York)	Labour market indicators	ILO Statistics Canada
3 (Bytowne)	Prices, real estate, non-financial and household indicators	Eurostat Statistics Canada
4 (Laurentian)	Government operations and external sector indicators (BoP, IIP, official reserves and merchandise trade)	ECB, IMF Statistics Canada
5 (Seigniory)	Financial sector (central bank and depository corporations surveys), financial market and external debt indicators (public and publicly guaranteed debt, debt service, private debt)	BIS, World Bank Statistics Canada

18:30 Reception: Restaurant 101 (Main Level)
Cash Bar

Friday, May 29 – Grand Salon (Convention Level)

Session 5 New requirements and the way forward

Chair: Henri Laurencin, UNCTAD

09:00 *Report back on break-out sessions by the moderators*

Session 6 Dissemination and communication policy for rapid estimates

Chair: Lucie Laliberte, IMF

10:00 Discussant: Michael Davies
Discussant: Eduardo Nunes
Discussant: Pieter Everaers
Supplementary commentaries by contributors of the supporting papers
Plenary discussion

Supporting papers

Initiatives by the Philippine Statistical Systems in the Compilation and Dissemination of Flash Indicators to Monitor the Country's Economic Performance
Candido Astrologo – Philippines

Revision policies on high frequency indicators
David Brackfield – OECD

Eurostats' communication policy on key indicators
Pieter Everaers – Eurostat

The World Bank's recently developed, internal, management tables on recent economic and financial indicators - the sources and availability of high frequency data
Sup Lee – World Bank

The dissemination and communication policy of rapid estimates in Canada
Wayne Smith – Canada

Monitoring of Economic Recession and Recovery: Rosstat' Experience
Igor Uliyanov – Russia

Dissemination Policy for Rapid Estimates: Experience of the Republic of Belarus
Zhanna Vasilevskaya – Belarus

BEA's dissemination of and communication policy for rapid estimates
David Wasshausen – USA

13:00 Lunch – Pinnacle Room (Penthouse Level)

Session 7 Global assessment on rapid estimates

**Co-Chairs: Munir A. Sheikh, Statistics Canada and
Paul Cheung, UNSD**

14:30 *Report back on sessions by chairs*

15:00 Plenary discussion

17:30 Close