

**United Nations**

**Nations Unies**

UNRESTRICTED

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
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FINANCIAL ESTIMATES PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 24 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

1. The estimates given in this financial annex relate to the expenditure required to give full effect to the recommendations of the Statistical Commission in its report to the Economic and Social Council (document E/CN.3/50).
2. Two factors influenced the Statistical Commission in the development of its recommendations relating to the programme of work to be undertaken in international statistics. The first relates to the fact that the Commission meets but once a year; moreover, among its own membership it cannot possibly provide the comprehensive knowledge of each field of statistics on a world-wide basis required to assist in the solution of pressing statistical problems. The second relates to the fact that the staff of the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the statistical services of the specialized agencies cannot permanently include a sufficient number of experts in the necessary fields of statistics with knowledge of the various national experiences in each field necessary to an adequate consideration of all factors in developing a given international programme of statistics. Accordingly the Commission has recommended that when such specialized expert experience is required and does not exist in the Secretariat it should be made available to the Secretary-General by national governments who will be asked to loan trained personnel for short periods as consultants for work on specific projects, with transportation and per diem provided by the United Nations. This practice is considered to be the most economical method of utilizing the limited resources of trained statistical personnel available to national and international organizations, and moreover assures that particular statistical problems will be considered by the most highly qualified individuals.

In considering the future work programme the Statistical Commission

/also gave

also gave careful attention to a wide variety of problems of statistical comparability upon which additional work would be productive. It reviewed the problems from the standpoint of urgency and immediate relevance to social and economic problems, rejecting several proposals and deferring others for further consideration at its next session. The proposals approved, therefore, are the ones listed below which were accorded first priority (with the exception of paragraph 11).

#### CLASSIFICATION OF COMMODITIES FOR EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

(Chapter VIII, paragraphs 99, 100)

3. In order to achieve comparability in external trade statistics collected by various countries, the Statistical Commission recommended as a matter of first priority that a preliminary draft of a standard classification be circulated to Member Governments with a request for technical comments. The draft and comments should be reviewed subsequently by a group of expert consultants who would develop a definitive classification based on current international practices, to be submitted to the Statistical Commission. It is estimated that four consultants with experience in the use of classification systems in various trading areas of the world will be necessary to assist the Secretariat in developing the classification.

Estimated cost of travel and per diem of the group of (4) expert consultants (January 1949 - April 1949) is:

Travel	\$ 3,600
Per diem	<u>\$ 7,200</u>
Total	\$10,800

Estimated printing cost (1950) 100 pages 5 languages: \$24,000.

#### STATISTICS OF NATIONAL INCOME AND CAPITAL FORMATION

(Chapter VIII, paragraph 102)

4. The Statistical Commission recommended as a matter of first priority that the Secretariat, with the assistance of expert consultants continue its study of methods used in various countries in the estimation of national income, with particular attention to the analysis and classification of concepts and methods employed in measuring capital formation and consumers' expenditures; methods used in estimating income accruing to labour and capital and in measuring real national income; and procedures that may be recommended to achieve international comparability.

Estimated cost for 3 expert consultants 1948-49 (3 months basis):

Travel	\$ 2,700
Per diem	<u>\$ 5,400</u>
Total	\$ 8,100

/TRANSPORT

## TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS STATISTICS

(Chapter VI, paragraphs 82-85)

5. The Statistical Commission endorsed and gave priority to the recommendation of the Transport and Communications Commission that a working group, to be designated in consultation with the Statistical Commission in the field of transport and communications statistics, be established to study the economic and technical requirements in the transport field, and that in its work it should be assisted by the Statistical Office, the Transport and Communications Division and the Economic Stability and Development Division of the United Nations.

No additional staff needed for this project in 1948.

The estimated cost of travel and per diem for (3) consultants for a period of 2 months during 1949 is:

Travel	\$ 2,700
Per diem	<u>\$ 6,300</u>
Total	\$ 9,000

## INDICES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

(Chapter VIII, paragraphs 96, 97)

6. The Statistical Commission recommended that immediate attention be given to the review and development of indices of industrial production. Such index numbers are tools of economic analysis which are lacking in many countries. Among other countries there is great diversity in their compilation and as a consequence international comparability is hampered. The Commission therefore recommended that a group of expert consultants should assist the Secretariat in:

1. a review of the recommendations made by the Committee of Statistical Experts of the League of Nations regarding indices of industrial production with a view to adapting such indices to current conditions, to new methodology and concepts, considering the development and construction of such indices against the general background and present status of statistics obtained from census of industrial production, and
2. formulating recommendations regarding the development of indices of industrial production in a report to the Statistical Commission.

Estimated cost for 1948-49 (3 months basis) group of 4 expert consultants:

Travel	\$ 3,600
Per diem	<u>\$ 7,200</u>
Total	\$10,800

/STUDY OF

STUDY OF PRICE INDEX NUMBERS AND THEIR INTER-RELATIONSHIPS

(Chapter VIII, paragraph 98)

7. The Statistical Commission recommended as a matter of first priority that the assistance of a group of expert consultants be sought to study methods used in the compilation of price index numbers, wholesale and retail price index numbers including exports and imports, and index numbers of quantum and prices related to external trade.

Estimated cost of travel and per diem of a group of 3 expert consultants (five months during 1948-49):

Travel	\$ 2,700
Per diem	<u>\$ 9,000</u>
Total	\$11,700

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR 1950 CENSUSES

(Chapter VIII, paragraph 104)

8. The Statistical Commission recommends that additional technical staff experienced in census methods and administration be added to the Statistical Office so that assistance can be given to Governments in the planning of census schedules, the organization of census procedures, and the development of tabulation plans. Qualified technicians are required who would have experience with conditions in several important areas of the world.

It is expected that Governments requesting such expert advice and assistance will reimburse the United Nations for the costs of salary, travel and per diem of the technicians while on loan to their country. The United Nations would bear only the costs of acquainting the technicians with the results of studies of national census practices available at Headquarters and other incidental costs. One such cost would be the preparation of summaries of the experience of particular countries in solving problems of methods and procedures so that the results could be made available to other countries in time to be of use in current census plans.

I. Estimated cost for salaries, travel and per diem of consultants:

Estimated cost for 1948 (3 months basis):

Salary, travel, per diem	\$10,000
Reimbursed by Governments	<u>\$ 7,500</u>

Net cost to the United Nations \$ 2,500

Estimated cost for each of the years 1949 and 1950

Salaries	\$32,500	per year	
Travel and per diem	<u>\$ 8,600</u>	" "	
	\$41,100	" "	
Reimbursed by Governments	<u>\$30,000</u>	" "	
Net cost to the United Nations	\$11,100	" "	<u>\$22,200</u>
Total cost for 1948, 1949 and 1950			\$24,700

/II.

II. Estimated cost of additional Secretariat post:

The additional work involved in collating the information received from Governments regarding their 1950 census programmes, organizing reports on technical problems at the request of Governments and to assist the consultants advising Governments acting as a centre of information with regard to the 1950 census programme, will require one additional post at Grade 14 to be added to the Statistical Office.

1949 - 1 post, Grade 14 \$ 7,000

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR EDUCATION IN STATISTICS

(Chapter VIII, paragraph 110)

9. The Statistical Commission recommends that a survey be made in collaboration with the specialized agencies and other international organizations in order that an international programme can be formulated to meet these needs.

The cost entailed in the preliminary steps of this project would consist of travel for two members of the staff to consult with the various agencies and Regional Organizations concerned.

Estimated cost for 1948 (travel) \$ 5,660

STATISTICAL SAMPLING

(Chapter VIII, paragraphs 106, 108)

10. The Statistical Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling and recommended that a specialist in the field of sampling be added to the staff of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.

No additional cost is contemplated beyond those now available in the budget.

ALPHABETICAL INDEX FOR INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

(Chapter VIII, paragraph 111 (2))

11. The Statistical Commission recommended that work on an alphabetical index to the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities should not be undertaken during 1948 or 1949 by the Statistical Office. Preliminary study of the project will be undertaken in preparation of a report to the fourth session of the Commission.

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