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ANNOTATED LIST OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR STATISTICS  
(Memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General)

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. This list pertains only to statistical concepts, definitions, methods and classifications established by international conventions, or regulations and recommendations resulting from the final action of the competent body of an international organization. Standards in process of elaboration are therefore excluded from the list as well as recommendations of regional, quasi-governmental or private organizations.
2. The present document should be considered as provisional, subject to further verification and the possible addition of other items. It is submitted in accordance with the request made by the Statistical Commission at its seventh session requesting the preparation of an annotated list or abstract of existing international recommendations on statistical concepts, definitions, classifications and methods.

## II. POPULATION STATISTICS

### 3. Subjects to be covered by censuses of population taken in or around 1950

At its third session the Population Commission drew up the following recommended list of subjects to be covered by the censuses of population taken in or around 1950.

- (i) Total population;
- (ii) sex;
- (iii) age;
- (iv) marital status;
- (v) place of birth;
- (vi) citizenship (legal nationality);
- (vii) mother tongue;
- (viii) educational characteristics;
- (ix) fertility data;
- (x) economic characteristics ((a) total economically active and inactive population, (b) occupation, industry and industrial status, (c) population dependent on various types of economic activities, (d) agricultural population);
- (xi) urban and rural population;
- (xii) households (including relationship to household head).

In reviewing this list of topics, the Statistical Commission gave priority to the following five items on which all countries taking censuses should try

to provide comparable data: (i) total population; (ii) age; (iii) sex; (iv) marital status; (v) types of economic activities.

Authority and Source

Report of the Population Commission (third session) to the Economic and Social Council, Annex A, document E/805, (list of subjects with definitions); Report of the Statistical Commission (third session) to the Economic and Social Council, paragraph 56, document E/795, (list of five subjects which should be given priority).

Availability

Application of International Standards to Census Data on the Economically Active Population, Population Studies, No.9, United Nations.

4. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities - Application to population censuses

In connexion with the 1950 censuses of population the Population Commission recommended that the economically active population be classified by industries according to the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, in addition to classification by occupations.

A section of the International Standard Industrial Classification illustrates how the classification can be applied to population censuses for the purpose of classifying the whole population, including dependents, by industrial affiliation. (See also under Industrial Statistics, Section XIII).

Authority and Source

Report of the Population Commission (fourth session) to the Economic and Social Council, paragraph 15, document E/1313.

Availability

International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Statistical Papers, Series M. No.4, United Nations.

5. Methods of defining and enumerating status groups

At its fourth session the Population Commission recommended that Governments initiate the following procedures for the 1950 censuses of population:

"To use the four major status groups as adopted by the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, namely, (i) employers, (ii) own-account workers, (iii) employees, (iv) unpaid family workers;

"Where it has proved impossible to distinguish between (i) employers, and (ii) own-account workers, to consolidate these groups into a single group of self-employed persons;

"To obtain greater detail in sub-classification of employees, where desired, through cross-tabulation of status by occupation and industry."

Authority and Source

Report of the Committee on the International Standard Classification of Occupations, Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians: Report of the Population Commission (fourth session) to the Economic and Social Council, paragraph 23, E/1711.

Availability

Population Census Methods, Population Statistics, No. 4, United Nations; Application of International Standards to Census Data on the Economically Active Population, Population Studies, No. 9, United Nations.

6. International Standard Classification of Occupations

A resolution adopted by the Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1949) recommended that the occupational unit groups in national classifications should be assembled in the following major groups which should be utilized for census purposes as well as for other types of statistics where appropriate:

- (1) Professional, technical and related workers
- (2) Managerial, administrative, clerical and related workers

- (3) Sales workers
- (4) Farmers, fishermen, hunters, lumbermen and related workers
- (5) Workers in mine, quarry and related occupations
- (6) Workers in operating transport occupations
- (7) Craftsmen, production process workers and labourers not elsewhere classified
- (8) Service workers
- (9) Occupations unidentifiable or not reported<sup>1/</sup>

Authority and Source

Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians, (Geneva, 1949).

Availability

The Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians, (Geneva, 1949), International Labour Office. A report prepared for the use of the Conference was published by the Office. The report treats the concept of occupations, uses of occupational data, basic information, classification principles, analysis of a proposed classification, etc. International Standard Classification of Occupations, Studies and Reports, New Series No.15, International Labour Office, Geneva.

7. Standard terminology for statistics relating to economically active populations

The Population Commission and the Statistical Commissions at their fifth and sixth sessions recommended the following specific terms (in the five official languages) relating to the economically active population for adoption by governments in the presentation of their national population data:

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<sup>1/</sup> At their fifth sessions the Statistical Commission and the Population Commission recommended the addition of the Armed Forces as a tenth major group.

1. Economically active population.
2. Employed.
3. Unemployed.
4. Industry (branch of economic activity).
5. Occupation.
6. Status (as employer, employee, etc.).
7. Employers.
8. Workers on own account.
9. Employees.
10. Unpaid family workers.

Authority and Source

Report of the Population Commission (fifth session) to the Economic and Social Council, paragraph 25, E/1711 (and document E/CN.9/46, paragraph 18); Report of the Population Commission (sixth session) to the Economic and Social Council, paragraph 35, E/1989; Report of the Statistical Commission (fifth session) to the Economic and Social Council, paragraph 48, E/1696/Rev.1.

Availability

Application of International Standards to Census Data on the Economically Active Population, Population Studies No. 9, United Nations.

8. Definitions of urban and rural population

The Population Commission of the United Nations at its fourth and fifth sessions made recommendations regarding the tabulations for urban-rural populations by size of agglomeration and cluster including separate tabulations of population not in identifiable agglomerations or clusters. In 1938, the International Statistical Institute adopted proposals for a standard urban-rural classification in response to a request of the League of Nations.

Authority and Source

Report of the Population Commission (fourth session) to the Economic and Social Council, paragraphs 46-49, Annex 2, document E/1313; Report of the Population Commission (fifth session) to the Economic and Social Council, paragraph 29-30, document E/1711.

Availability

Data on Urban and Rural Population in Recent Censuses, Population Studies, No.8, United Nations.

9. Tabulation of data from population censuses taken in or around 1950

At its fourth session the Population Commission drew up an extensive list of tabulations designed to facilitate the international comparability of census results. These tabulations were drawn up in relation to the 12 topics recommended by the Commission for inclusion in the census schedules.

Authority and Source

Report of the Population Commission (fourth session) to the Economic and Social Council, Annex 2, E/1313.

Availability

Population Census Methods, Population Studies, No.4, United Nations;  
Application of International Standard to Census Data on the Economically Active Population, Population Studies, No.9, United Nations.

### III. VITAL STATISTICS

10. Principles for vital statistics

The Economic and Social Council at its fifteenth session approved recommendations for the improvement and standardization of vital statistics proposed by the Statistical Commission.

The recommendations are set forth under the following main headings:

(a) general principles; (b) principles for legal registration of vital events in so far as they relate to vital statistics; (c) principles for the recording, reporting and collecting of data for statistical purposes (including list of basic items to be collected on statistical reports of live births, death, foetal death, marriage and divorce); (d) principles for compilation of vital statistics (including basic annual tabulation programme).

Authority and Source

Economic and Social Council resolution 469 D (XV), document E/2419.

Availability

Principles for a Vital Statistics System, Statistical Papers, Series M. No. 19, United Nations.

11. Regulations No. 1 Regarding Nomenclatures (including Compilation and Publication of Statistics) with Respect to Diseases and Causes of Death

See under Health Statistics, Section IV.

12. International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death

See under Health Statistics, Section IV.

13. International Form of Medical Certificate of Cause of Death

See under Health Statistics, Section IV.

14. Definitions of "live birth", "foetal death" and "cancer"

See under Health Statistics, Section IV.

IV. HEALTH STATISTICS

15. Regulations No. 1 Regarding Nomenclatures (including Compilation and Publication of Statistics) with Respect to Diseases and Causes of Death

The first World Health Assembly adopted Regulations No. 1 Regarding Nomenclature (including the Compilation and Publication of Statistics) with Respect to Diseases and Causes of Death, (Nomenclature Regulations 1948). The Regulations cover instructions for the compilation and publication of mortality statistics by cause, the regulation of the medical certification of cause of death, the selection of the main cause for tabulation, and the compilation and publication of morbidity statistics.



Authority and Source

First World Health Assembly, WHO Official Records, No. 13.

Availability

Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, Volume 1, Bulletin of the WHO, Supplement 1; World Health Organization, Geneva.

16. International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death

This sixth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death was approved in April 1948 by the International Conference for the Sixth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death which recommended that the World Health Assembly adopt suitable regulations to embody the recommendations of the Conference. The First World Health Assembly adopted such regulations in 1948 (see above).

The Detailed List (3-digit) comprises 612 categories of diseases and morbid conditions, plus 153 categories for classification of the external cause of injury and 189 categories for characterization of injuries according to the nature of the lesion. Optional 4-digit sub-categories are provided for many of the 3-digit categories.

The Sixth Revision of the List appears in the Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death, which also contains the following three lists for the tabulation of morbidity and mortality data by cause to meet general needs (A) Intermediate List of 150 causes for Tabulation of Morbidity and Mortality; (B) Abbreviated List of 50 causes for Tabulation of Mortality; (C) Special List of 50 Causes for Tabulation of Morbidity for Social Security Purposes.

Authority and Source

First World Health Assembly, WHO Official Records, No. 13.

Availability

Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, Volume 1 and Volume 2 (comprising the Alphabetic List to the Classification) Bulletin of the World Health Organization, Supplement 1; World Health Organization, Geneva.

17. Medical Certification of Cause of Death

Article 9 of Regulations No. 1 Regarding Nomenclature (including the Compilation and Publication of Statistics) with Respect to Diseases and Causes of Death obligates countries to adopt a form of medical certificate which conforms as far as possible to the International Form of Medical Certificate of Cause of Death. Various recommendations and instructions for physicians on the use of the form adopted by the World Health Assembly are contained in the Manual on International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death. Supplementary instructions and amplifications have appeared subsequent to the publication of the Manual.

Authority and Source

First World Health Assembly, WHO Official Records, No. 13.

Availability

Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, Volume 1 and 2, Bulletin of the World Health Organization, Supplement 1; Bulletin of the World Health Organization, Supplements 3, 4, 5 and 6, World Health Organization, Geneva.

18. Recommendations regarding Definitions and Tabulations

The Third World Health Assembly adopted definitions of "live birth", "foetal death" and the statistical definition of "cancer". In addition recommendations were made regarding the "registration and tabulation of live births and infant deaths".

Authority and Source

Third World Health Assembly, WHO Official Records, No. 28.

Availability

Expert Committee on Health Statistics, Report on the Second Session, Technical Report Series No. 25, World Health Organization, Geneva.

V. HOUSING STATISTICS

19. A minimum programme of housing statistics was drawn up by the Committee of Statistical Experts of the League of Nations in 1939. The recommendations referred to (a) geographical scope of general housing censuses; (b) definitions of basic units (i.e., the room, the dwelling, the household, the occupants); (c) statistics relating to characteristics of dwellings; (d) statistics relating to the occupation of dwellings and rooms; (e) other statistics relating to households and dwellings; (f) statistics of buildings.

Authority and Source

Report to the Council on the Work of the Eighth Session of the Committee of Statistical Experts of the League of Nations. C.133 M.85.1939. II.A. Geneva.

Availability

Housing Statistics, Studies and Reports on Statistical Methods, No. 5., League of Nations.

VI. MIGRATION AND TOURIST STATISTICS

20. Definitions for International Migration Statistics

These recommendations, initiated by the Population Commission and Statistical Commission, in collaboration with the International Labour Office take account of

the resolutions of the 1932 International Conference of Migration Statisticians and other relevant international recommendations. They describe in detail the steps to be taken in order to make migration statistics more reliable and useful for analysing migrations from demographic, manpower, social and economic points of view.

The recommendations cover (i) methods of collection, (ii) major categories of arrivals and departures, (iii) recommended tabulations, (iv) suggested minimum information to be obtained on the Statistical Slip.

#### Authority and Source

Resolutions adopted by the International Conference of Migration Statisticians (Geneva, October 1932). Economic and Social Council resolution 469 E (XV), document E/2419.

#### Availability

International Migration Statistics, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 20, United Nations.

#### 21. International Tourist Statistics

General recommendations concerning the compilation of international tourist statistics were made by the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts and approved by the Council at their fifth session.

These recommendations include the following sections:

I. Purpose of international tourist statistics; II. definition of the term "tourist"; IV. countries of provenance of tourists; V. number of tourists and length of their stay; VI. intervals at which statistics should be prepared and published; VII. standard list of countries of provenance of tourists; VIII. suggestions for estimating tourist expenditure.

#### Authority, Source, Availability

Report to the Council on the Work of the Fifth Session of the Committee of Statistical Experts, C: 456.M.270.1936 II.A. (C.E.S.73) Geneva.

## VII. AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

### 22. Census of Agriculture

The Standard Form or List of Items used extensively in the 1950 census cycle was based on the work of the International Institute of Agriculture recorded in the International Convention relating to Economic Statistics (Protocol Part I; 6, article 2 III A; and Annex VI).

The List of Items to be included in the census was divided into two parts. Part A (short list) includes the following categories: I. Holder and tenure; II. Land utilization; III. Agricultural population; IV. Crops; V. Power; VI. Livestock and poultry. Part B (expanded list): A. Holder and tenure; B. Land utilization; C. Agricultural population; D. Employment in agricultural work connected with the holding; E. Crops; F. Livestock and poultry; G. Agricultural technology; H. Fertilizers and soil dressing; I. Irrigation and drainage; J. Fragmentation; K. Wood and fishery products.

#### Authority and Source

Report of the Second Session of FAO Conference, (Copenhagen, 1946).

#### Availability

Programme of the 1950 World Census of Agriculture, Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome.

### 23. Current Agricultural Statistics

Recommendations for annual returns for area and harvest of principal crops and periodical returns (if possible annual) of chief species of livestock, showing sex and age where possible.

#### Authority, Source and Availability

International Convention Relating to Economic Statistics, article 2, paragraph III (B) and (C), United Nations.

#### 24. Food Balance Sheets

A recommendation provides for a standard form for food balance sheets to include the following information - commodity; production; stocks; gross exports and imports; supply available; disposal of available supply; per capita supplies; calories per kilogramme; protein percentage; fat percentage.

##### Authority and Source

Report of the Fourth Session of the Conference, Food and Agriculture Organization (Washington, 1948)

##### Availability

Handbook for the Preparation of Food Balance Sheets, Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome.

##### Food Composition Tables

A study has been prepared to serve as a guide to governments which consists of tables showing the composition of different kinds of food in terms of retail weight and tables showing the constituents of the edible portion of each commodity, the extraction rate and the per cent refuse.

Food Composition Tables for International Use, FAO Nutritional Studies, No. 3, Food and Agricultural Organization, Rome.

#### 25. Rice Statistics

Standard statistical practices in reporting and publishing rice statistics for international use, including definitions and a standardized form for a rice balance sheet.

##### Authority and Source

Recommendations of the International Rice Commission.

Availability

Report of the First Session of the International Rice Commission, (Bangkok, March 1949); Report of the Second Session of the International Rice Commission, (Rangoon, 1950).

26. Forestry Statistics

The Food and Agriculture Organization has initiated a standard form for the collection of data relating to forests. The questionnaire covers the following items: land categories, classification of accessible forests; classification of forests in use; growing of stock; annual growth and fellings in forests in use; inaccessible forests, afforestation and reduction in forest areas.

Authority and Source

Report of the Sixth Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization. International Convention Relating to Economic Statistics, article 2, III D.

Availability

FAO Questionnaire: Forestry and Forest Products: F/Q53/3. Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome.

27. Statistics of Fisheries

The International Convention Relating to Economic Statistics incorporates recommendations for the coverage of statistics of fisheries, which include quantity and value of the catch, trade, employment of persons and fleets, etc.

Authority, Source and Availability

International Convention Relating to Economic Statistics, article 2 III (E); article 4 and Annex II.

## VIII. LABOUR STATISTICS

28. International standards for statistics of employment, unemployment and the labour force

A resolution adopted by the Sixth International Conference of Statisticians calls for comprehensive coverage in statistics of employment, unemployment and the labour force and states that (a) statistics should be based on international standard definitions, (b) statistics should cover all branches of economic activity; all persons, employed and unemployed, who have jobs or who are seeking work; and persons in all industrial status groups; (c) comprehensive statistics should be provided in the fullest possible detail at convenient intervals, and series, not necessarily in the same detail, to show current changes. The resolution also makes recommendations on sources of information and defines the principal concepts. Recommendations are made concerning the types of statistics which should be made available at various intervals.

Authority and Source

Resolution adopted by the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Montreal, 1947) and resolution 267 C (X) adopted by the Economic and Social Council.

Availability

The Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Studies and Reports, New Series No. 7, Part IV, (International Labour Office, Geneva).

A report, entitled Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Statistics - A Study of Methods, discusses the various problems of these statistics - objectives, definitions, reporting systems, types of series, coverage, international comparability of data and publication. This report was printed and circulated to the Governments prior to the Conference: I.L.O. Studies and Reports, New Series No. 7 Part I, (International Labour Office, Geneva).

29. Statistics of wages and hours of work

A Convention concerning statistics of wages and hours of work in the principal mining and manufacturing industries, including building, construction, and in agriculture provides for the compilation and publication of (a) general statistics relating to wages and hours of work; (b) statistics of average earnings



and of hours actually worked in mining and manufacturing in industries;  
(c) statistics of ~~time~~ rates of wages and normal hours of work in mining and manufacturing industries; (d) statistics of wages and hours of work in agriculture.

Authority and Source

Convention 63: Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, International Labour Office, 1938; and resolutions adopted by the First and Fifth International Conferences of Labour Statisticians, Geneva.

Availability

Conventions and Recommendations, 1919-1949, International Labour Conference, (International Labour Office, Geneva).

30. International standards for statistics of earnings from payrolls

A resolution provides international standards for the methods and procedures to be adopted in utilizing payrolls as a basis for statistics of earnings specified in Convention No. 63 concerning statistics of wages and hours of work, adopted by the International Labour Conference (1938), and for any other statistics of earnings.

Authority and Source

Resolution adopted by the Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 1949).

Availability

The Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians, International Labour Office, (Geneva, 1949).

A report, prepared by the Office and circulated prior to the Conference, deals with wages statistics drawn from establishment returns, industrial censuses and social security statistics, and with methods and procedures - samples, coverage, computation and publication. Wages and Payroll Statistics, Studies and Reports, New Series, No. 16, (International Labour Office, Geneva).

31. International standards for statistics of industrial injuries

A resolution adopted by the First International Conference of Labour Statisticians provides international standards for the classification of industrial accidents and the calculation of frequency and severity rates. (This latter section was superseded by a resolution adopted by the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians entitled Industrial Injury Rates).

Authority and Source

Resolution adopted by the First International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 1923) and resolution adopted by the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, (Montreal, 1947).

Availability

The Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, I.L.O. Studies and Reports, New Series No. 7, Parts 3 and 4, (International Labour Office, Geneva).

A report prepared and circulated to the governments prior to the Conference contains a general discussion of definitions and classifications, and proposals for the calculation of frequency and severity rates of industrial injuries. Methods of Statistics of Industrial Injuries, Studies and Reports, New Series No. 7, Part 3, (International Labour Office, Geneva).

32. Industrial disputes

A resolution provides detailed definitions and principles for the compilation of statistics of industrial disputes. The subjects covered include the issue in dispute, the results, method of settlement, industries affected, workers affected, days lost and amount of wages lost.

Authority and Source

Resolution adopted by the Third International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 1926).

Availability

International Labour Code, 1951, Volume II, (International Labour Office, Geneva).

33. Methods of defining and enumerating status groups

See under Population Statistics, Section II.

34. International Standard Classification of Occupations

See under Population Statistics, Section II.

35. Standard terminology for statistics relating to economically active population

See under Population Statistics, Section II.

IX. COST OF LIVING AND FAMILY LIVING STUDIES

36. International standards for statistics of cost of living

A resolution adopted by the Second International Conference of Labour Statisticians and later supplemented by action of the Sixth International Conference makes recommendations for international standards for cost of living indexes - calculation, splicing, collection of price data, weighting diagrams, etc.

Authority and Source

Resolution adopted by the Second International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 1925). resolution adopted by the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Montreal, 1947).

Availability

The Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Studies and Reports, New Series No. 7, Part 4, (International Labour Office, Geneva).

A report containing a discussion of the objectives, techniques for obtaining and utilizing representative price data, weighting diagrams, studies of consumer purchases, etc., was prepared by the Office and circulated to governments prior to the Conference: Cost of Living Statistics, Studies and Reports, No. 7, Part II, International Labour Office, Geneva).

37. Methods of family living studies

These resolutions provide international standards for family living studies and deal with the objectives, content, organization of enquiries, analysis and presentation of results.

Authority and Source

Resolution adopted by the Third International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 1926); resolution adopted by the Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 1949).

Availability

The Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians,  
(International Labour Office, Geneva).

A report prepared and circulated prior to the Conference deals with the scope and timing of family living studies - sampling methods, collection of data, classification of receipts and disbursements, analysis and appraisal of results, food and dietary analysis, special problems of family living studies in under-developed territories, farm family living surveys and special investigations, Methods of Family Living Studies. Studies and Reports, New Series No. 17, (International Labour Office, Geneva).

## X. NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

### 38. National income statistics

The Statistical Commission at its seventh session adopted a resolution concerning recommendations contained in the report of a group of national income experts. These recommendations take account of the work of the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts (Measurement of National Income and Construction of Social Accounts) and cover the development and uses of national accounting, basic concepts, boundary of production, market prices and factor costs, criteria for classifying transactions, sectors of the economy, types of transactions, standard accounts and standard tables, definitions of the flows in the standard national accounts and tables, and industrial classification of domestic product and classification of private consumption expenditure.

#### Authority and Source

Report of the Statistical Commission (seventh session) to the Economic and Social Council, paragraph 52, document E/2365.

#### Availability

A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables, Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 2, United Nations.

### 39. Capital formation

The Statistical Commission at its seventh session approved a set of recommendations to be used as a general framework which countries engaged in the preparation of estimates of capital formation could consider for adoption. These recommendations embrace basic concepts (definition of gross and net capital formation; definition of resident institutions; capital consumption); definitions of empirical equivalents (basic approaches, treatment of used assets, treatment of international carriers, prepayment by foreign residents, gold transactions, valuation problems, distinction between capital and current expenditures, increases in stocks, capital formation of general government, provisions for the consumption of fixed capital: (a) the accounting concept, (b) the economic concept). Classification of capital formation (structure of capital formation, types of capital goods, classification by industrial use).

Authority and Source

Report of the Statistical Commission (seventh session) to the Economic and Social Council, paragraphs 62, 63, E/2365.

Availability

Concepts and Definitions of Capital Formation, Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 3, United Nations.

XI. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STATISTICS

40. Balance of Payments Manual

The Balance of Payments Manual contains 14 tables each accompanied by detailed explanatory notes and definitions. The first table is a master table and the others are designed to facilitate the compilation of the data needed for the categories of the master table and to provide significant analysis of the data in this table. Appendices to the Manual contain a table and instructions for classifying international transactions by geographic areas and an abbreviated reporting form designed for the benefit of countries unable to provide the comprehensive information requested in the main tables.

Authority and Source

Adopted by the International Monetary Fund to form the basis on which the Fund's members submit regular reports of balance of payments data in accordance with Article VIII, Section 5 (a) of the Fund Agreement.

Availability

Balance of Payments Manual, International Monetary Fund, Washington, D.C.

## XII. EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

### 41. Standard International Trade Classification

The Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) was approved by the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of the Statistical Commission for international use in substitution for the Minimum List of Commodities for International Trade Statistics drawn up by the League of Nations. The SITC comprises 570 items, 150 groups, 52 divisions and 10 sections which include all commodities of international trade in summary form (classified by their component material or use); the items may be subdivided to provide greater detail if desired for national use. The latest edition of the SITC incorporates item and alphabetical indexes showing, for each of about 20,000 articles, the heading of the SITC, under which it should be classified.

#### Authority and Source

Economic and Social Council resolution 299 (XI) document E/1849; recommended by the Council for use by all Governments either as a national classification or as a basis for re-arranging their data for international comparisons.

#### Availability

Commodity Indexes for the Standard International Trade Classification, Statistical Papers Series M. No. 10 (Indexed Edition), United Nations.

### 42. Principle of Valuation

The Economic and Social Council has recommended that in the interest of accuracy, usefulness and comparability of external trade statistics for international purposes Governments should wherever possible use "transaction values" in compiling their national statistics of external trade. Transaction value is defined for imports and exports as follows:

"The value for imports shall be the transaction value, that is to say, 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;

"The value for exports shall be the transaction value, that is to say, the value at which the goods were sold by the exporter including the cost of transportation and insurance to bring the goods on to the transporting vehicle at the frontier of the exporting country;"

Authority and Source

Economic and Social Council resolution 469B (XV), document E/2419.

Availability

Report of the Statistical Commission (seventh session) paragraphs 33 and 34; document E/2365, United Nations.

43. Definitions for customs areas

The Economic and Social Council adopted the following resolutions concerning definitions for customs areas as a basis upon which trading partners of each country should compile their statistics of trade-by-countries:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"...

"Requests the government of each Member State in compiling trade-by-country statistics to use, so far as it is able, as the definition of the territory with which it has traded the definition of that territory for customs purposes provided by the government concerned."

Authority, Source and Availability

Economic and Social Council resolution 380 B (XIII), document E/2152.<sup>2/</sup>

44. Indexes of quantum in international trade

The Statistical Commission draws attention to its views on the following aspects of quantum and value indexes in external trade: post-war weights; the compilation of quantum indexes on a fixed weight base as well as on a

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<sup>2/</sup> A list of customs areas drawn up on the basis of this principle is contained in document E/CN.3/174.



moving weight basis; the desirability of quarterly indexes; the necessity to make adjustments for complete coverage<sup>3/</sup> as well as certain other aspects.

Authority, Source and Availability

Report of the Statistical Commission (fourth session) to the Economic and Social Council, paragraph 92, E/1312.

XIII. INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

45. Industrial classification

The International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) was approved by the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of the Statistical Commission for international use in substitution for Statistics of the Gainfully Occupied Population, (Studies and Reports on Statistical Methods, No. 1) drawn up by the League of Nations. The new classification comprises 113 groups, 44 major groups and 9 divisions and can be used for industrial and population census enquiries. The groups may be subdivided for national uses to expand the classification by the addition of further decimal digits. (See also under Population Statistics, Section II.)

Authority and Source

Economic and Social Council resolution 149 A (VII), document E/1065.

Availability

International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Statistical Papers, Series M. No. 4, United Nations.

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<sup>3/</sup> Methods of adjustment for incomplete coverage are contained in Indexes of Quantum in International Trade, Statistical Papers, Series M. No. 3, United Nations.

46. Industrial statistics

The Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution approving international standards in basic industrial statistics (including censuses) recommended by the Statistical Commission. These recommendations refer to coverage, classification, degree of detail, frequency, recommended list of statistics and definitions of the statistics.

Authority and Source

Economic and Social Council resolution 469 C (XV), document E/2419.

Availability

International Standards in Basic Industrial Statistics, Statistical Papers, Series M. No. 17, United Nations.

47. Index numbers of industrial activity

The recommendations on the subject of index numbers of industrial production made in 1938 by the Committee of Statistical Experts of the League of Nations in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention relating to Economic Statistics have been reviewed and adapted to new conditions, methodology and concepts in accordance with a request made by the Statistical Commission. The following recommendations deal with the major groups of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities to be covered, the formula to be employed, the periodic review of the weight base, methods of compilation and the publication of methodological details.

Authority and Source

Economic and Social Council resolution 299 D (XI), document E/1849.

Availability

Index Numbers of Industrial Production, Studies in Methods, No. 1, United Nations.

#### XIV. MINING STATISTICS

48. Principles for the compilation of statistics of the production of minerals and metals are set out in the International Convention Relating to Economic Statistics. Definitions and classifications for use in the reporting of these statistics were recommended by the Committee of Statistical Experts of the League of Nations pertaining to weights of the various essential constituent elements of non-metallic minerals; classification of iron ores according to phosphorous content; definition of manganiferous, chromiferous, and nickeliferous iron ores and manganese ores; general classification of semi-finished and finished products of puddled iron and steel; scope of the returns of the semi-finished products.

##### Authority, Source and Availability

International Convention relating to Economic Statistics (1928), article 2, paragraph IV, article 5 and Annex III; Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee of Statistical Experts of the League of Nations (C.456.M.270.1936.II.A), approved by the Council at its 96th session, 22 January 1937.

#### XV. TRANSPORT STATISTICS

##### 49. Definitions for transport statistics

International standard definitions for transport statistics were initiated by the Statistical Commission and Transport and Communications Commission and recommended by the Economic and Social Council for use by Governments in compiling their basic statistics for railways, road transport, inland waterway transport, coastwise shipping, international sea-borne shipping, air transport and the continuous transport of goods in bulk, e.g. pipe-line and long distance conveyor belt. It was recommended that a number of specific items of statistics dealing with measures of performance and capacity be collected for each type of transport. Definitions for each item are given.

Authority and Source

Report of the Transport and Communications Commission (fourth session) to the Economic and Social Council, document E/1665; and Report of the Statistical Commission (fifth session) to the Economic and Social Council, document E/1696/Rev.1.

Availability

International Standard Definitions for Transport Statistics, Statistical Papers, Series M. No. 8, United Nations.

50. Air transport statistics

The second session of the Statistics Division of the International Civil Aviation Organization made detailed recommendations, approved by the Council at its seventeenth session, for the reporting of statistics for international purposes.

The recommendations are incorporated in seven Standard Forms and refer to the following statistics: traffic (monthly) distinguishing scheduled and non-scheduled, international and domestic; total traffic in each country (monthly) for scheduled renewal service; traffic flow (semi-annual); fleet and personnel (annual); balance sheet and profit and loss statements (annual).

Authority and Source

Minutes of 20th Meeting of 17th session of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Doc. 7328-C/853, paragraphs 16-24.

Availability

Report of the Second Session of the Statistics Division to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Document 7330-STA/528; International Civil Aviation Organization (Montreal, Canada).

51. Air accident statistics

A resolution provides for the compilation of statistics of accidents on scheduled air services.

Authority and Source

Resolution adopted by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization February 1949, document 6576-C/749. The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Causes of Death of the World Health Organization includes a section (E860-E866) for classifying aircraft accidents for use in compiling morbidity and mortality statistics (First World Health Assembly, WHO Official Records, No. 13).

Availability

Report of the First Session of the Statistics Division, document 5205-STA/526 International Civil Aviation Organization, (Montreal, Canada).

XVI. POSTAL STATISTICS

52. In accordance with article 108 of the Universal Postal Convention, the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union has established Standard Forms to obtain postal statistics. The forms comprise sections dealing with (a) general postal information (b) postal organization (c) traffic (d) dead letters (e) finance. In addition Standard Forms are used to collect statistics of transit costs which are cleared through the Universal Postal Union.

Authority and Source

Universal Postal Convention, Brussels 1952, articles 108 and 170 to 178.

Availability

Statistique Annuaire Postale (Réduite; Complète), Universal Postal Union, Berne.

## XVII. TELECOMMUNICATIONS STATISTICS

### 53. Telegraph statistics

An article of the International Telegraph Regulation provides for general telegraph statistics to be prepared annually. An additional recommendation calls for the publication of annual statistics for the international telex service. A Standard Form is used for the collection of general telegraph statistics, comprising the following main categories - population at last census; area of country; telegraph network; offices and stations; equipment; traffic. For the collection of telex statistics the Standard Form comprises categories for the telex network (telex centres; telex connexions, telex circuits); international telex traffic.

#### Authority and Source

Règlement télégraphique international, article 98, paragraph 2; Report of the International Telegraph Consultative Committee (Arnhem, 1953).

#### Availability

General Telegraph Statistics, General Secretariat, International Telecommunication Union, Geneva.

Telex Statistics, General Secretariat, International Telecommunication Union, Geneva.

### 54. Telephone Statistics

A Standard Form for the collection of telephone statistics comprises the following main categories: population, area, telephone exchanges, telephone lines in service, switchboards, circuits, traffic, over-all expenses.

#### Authority and Source

Règlement téléphonique international, article 54 (Paris 1949).

#### Availability

Notice 61, General Telephone Statistics, General Secretariat, International Telecommunication Union, Geneva.

55. Radiocommunications

A Standard Form provides for the collection of general radiocommunication statistics to be published at stated intervals.

Authority and Source

Règlement des radiocommunications, article 20, paragraphs 1 and 9, (Atlantic City revision, 1947).

Availability

Règlement des radiocommunications, Appendix 6, paragraph 10 (1), General Secretariat, International Telecommunication Union, Geneva.

XVIII. SAMPLING

56. Preparation of sampling survey reports

The Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling made recommendations concerning the preparation of reports of sampling surveys. These recommendations covered the following points: general description of the survey; design of the survey; method of selecting sample-units; personnel and equipment; statistical analysis and computational procedure; costing analysis; accuracy of the survey.

Authority and Source

Report of the second and third sessions of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling to the Statistical Commission, E/CN.3/52 and Add.1; and E/CN.3/83 respectively.

Availability

The Preparation of Sampling Survey Reports, Statistical Papers, Series C. No. 1 (revised), United Nations.

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