

Directory of statistical services of international organisations

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

Brief description of the organisation¹	<p>Established in 1874, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), based in the Swiss capital Berne, is the second oldest international organization and a specialized agency of the United Nations. With its 192 member countries, the UPU is the leading international organization in the field of postal services and serves as global forum for cooperation between postal sector players. UPU's main objective is to stimulate the lasting development of efficient and accessible universal postal services of quality and to guarantee the interconnection of networks.</p> <p>The International Bureau of the UPU has collected and published postal statistics on a regular basis since its foundation. The first edition of postal statistics appeared in 1875 and constitutes most probably the oldest example of statistics collected and published by an international organization. Since then, the postal statistics have been amended and improved in a constant concern to meet changing demands and expectations. Today, the statistical service is located in the Economic and Regulatory Affairs Directorate of the International Bureau.</p>
Mission²	<p>The statistical service of the International Bureau gathers data on all key dimensions of the postal sector, most importantly, employment, postal infrastructure, collection and delivery, financial results, letter post volumes, express items and postal parcels volumes, postal financial services as well as logistics and online services. The postal statistics constitute a unique source of information and is widely used within the postal sector, especially by governments, regulatory bodies, as well as postal operators.</p>
Fields of Activity/ structure <i>Statistics</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data collection, harmonization and dissemination in the field of postal services through annual questionnaires sent to national postal operators and regulators. ▪ Annual time series back to 1980 are available online with over 90 indicators and for around 200 countries or territories. ▪ Real time data on international postal traffic. ▪ Technical assistance to member countries in the field of postal statistics, including the development of guidelines and methodological material to improve data collection and quality. ▪ Organization of training courses on the collection of postal statistics.
Mandate	<p>As stated in the UN-UPU Agreements from 1949, the United Nations recognize the UPU as the appropriate agency to collect, analyse, publish, standardize and improve the postal statistics (Article VIII (3), Statistical services). Furthermore, Article III (1) states that the United Nations and the Union agree to cooperate with a view to securing the greatest possible usefulness and utilization of statistical information.</p>
Statistical work programme	<p>Four-year programme, as decided by the UPU Plenipotentiary Congress. The current programme covers the period 2009-2012 and provides an overview of the objectives, specific actions and expected outputs for the period.</p>
Number of	<p>2 full-time staff members.</p>

¹ Description of the statistics section/department in the organization

² Mission of the statistics section/department of the organization

staff <i>Total / Statistical division</i>	In addition, statistical data are collected and disseminated by other programs, for instance physical addressing systems data (ZIP codes worldwide).
Flagship Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yearbook of Postal Statistics / Statistique des services postaux
Website	http://www.upu.int/en/resources/postal-statistics.html

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