

The Statistics Newsletter

for the extended OECD Statistical Network

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Eurostat's Approach to Quality

By Yves Franchet, Director General, and Werner Grünewald, Quality Manager, EUROSTAT

What Is It All About?

Quality has become a buzzword nowadays. Everybody speaks about quality, nobody is against quality. Official statistics have to cope with this general development. They get pressure from its "stakeholders" to follow successful paths from the private sector. Based on the experience of National Statistical Institutes, Eurostat launched its quality approach several years ago. What is Eurostat's approach, what is its definition of quality, what are the underlying visions and concepts, and which quality related instruments have been developed leading to which improvement actions? Answers to these questions are given below.

What Means Quality in Statistics?

The starting point of Eurostat's definition of quality of statistics is the ISO norm 8402, which defines quality as "the totality of features and characteristics of a product or service that bear on its ability to satisfy stated or implied needs". This very general definition puts the user and his needs at the centre of all considerations. Looking at the term "quality" from the point of view of a user of international statistics has led Eurostat to a definition of (statistical) quality that is composed of seven dimensions:

- **Relevance:** Statistics are relevant when they meet users' needs. Relevance requires the identification of users and their expectations;
- **Accuracy:** is defined as the closeness between the estimated value and the (unknown) true value;
- **Timeliness and punctuality:** Statistics are only useful when the figures are up-to-date and published on time at pre-established dates;
- **Accessibility and clarity:** Data have most value when they are easily accessible by users, are available in the form users desire, and are adequately documented ("meta data" according to the type of user). Assistance in using and interpreting figures should be part of the providers' tasks;
- **Comparability:** Data are most useful when they enable reliable comparisons across space like countries or regions and over time.
- **Coherence:** When originating from a single source, statistics are coherent in as much as elementary concepts can be combined reliably in more complex ways. When originating from different sources, e.g. from different surveys with differing frequencies, statistics are coherent insofar as they are based on common definitions, classifications and methodological standards.
- **Completeness:** Areas for which statistics are available should reflect the needs and priorities expressed by the users. Completeness is an extension to relevance, for completeness does not only mean that statistics should serve user needs but also they should serve them as completely as possible, taking restricted resources into account.

It is worth noting that trade-offs exist between the different dimensions. The most obvious example is the trade-off between timeliness and accuracy.

What Are Eurostat's Visions and Basic Concepts?

Eurostat has to satisfy its users inside and outside the European Commission. The key factors to achieve this general goal are a qualified, motivated and satisfied work force, and the delivery of high quality data from the suppliers, i.e. national and regional institutions in the Member States such as statistical offices, but also ministries and other institutions.

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These aspects are core elements of Eurostat's business plan, entitled its "Corporate Plan". This plan incorporates Eurostat's mission, aims, roles, values, objectives, strengths and weaknesses as well as threats and opportunities. It

the disposal of the staff. Secondly, concrete improvement actions have been launched based on the results of the application of these instruments or other sources.

Table 1 summaries the instruments currently available and their contents.

Table 1 Qualistat instruments	
<i>Instruments</i>	<i>Description</i>
Unit development plan	Corporate Plan at unit level
User satisfaction surveys	Measurement of needs and the level of satisfaction of internal and external users
Process management	Harmonised approach for the management of processes
Quality reports	Measurement of the quality of data and other products according to the different dimensions of quality
Staff opinion survey	Measurement of staff satisfaction and motivation
Training	Special training events on quality
CYBERNEWS	Intranet based internal communication facilities
Office-wide performance indicators	Set of indicators to measure Eurostat's progress with respect to achieving its objectives
Project management	Harmonised approach for the management of projects
Rolling Reviews	Evaluation of the statistical products
Self-assessment against the EFQM model	Measurement of Eurostat's situation against the EFQM model
Current good practices	Establishment of a set of current good practices with respect to a variety of aspects of Eurostat's working life

further includes short-term and mid-term objectives of the office currently ranging until 2003 and 2005 respectively. In order to achieve the objectives of the Corporate Plan some horizontal activities spreading across the whole office are considered helpful. Eurostat has launched a horizontal initiative for this purpose summarised under the title "Qualistat" which stands for quality in statistics.

It is difficult to develop and follow-up such a comprehensive approach without a sound theoretical foundation. Eurostat has decided to follow the general considerations of the Total Quality Management (TQM) philosophy. As

these principles are still fairly general and not easily applicable to the day-to-day business, Eurostat saw the need for a more concrete theoretical model and decided to go for the EFQM model developed by the European Foundation for Quality Management.

How Are These visions and Concepts Achieved: The Qualistat Initiative

The problem of transforming these tools for the purpose of the daily work has been tackled in Eurostat in two different ways. Firstly, Eurostat has developed a set of instruments that have been made at

None of them are nowadays compulsory. The general strategy is to offer instruments of high quality so that the staff feels motivated to use them.

The second way to make the office benefit from its quality approach is through specific "improvement actions". The application and use of these instruments automatically lead to improvement actions. Eurostat's recent revision of its Corporate Plan offered the unique opportunity to summarise all currently ongoing office-wide improvement actions under one umbrella. Examples of such improvement actions are a training kit for managers, a tool for first aid about discrimination/harassment, a strategy for a better communication of decisions of the management board, a strategy for strengthening links with core users or a general framework for Service Level Agreements to strengthen working relationships between units.

Where Is Eurostat Today?

There is still a long way to go. Eurostat has only started its way to excellence. The history so far has shown success but also failures. But there is no alternative. Eurostat's quality approach is now in its consolidation phase. It is crucial in this

phase to keep the momentum. Eurostat has identified several areas for further activities in the next years, besides perfection of available instruments and improvement actions that should help keep the momentum going.

Improving Oil Market Transparency:

The Oil Data Initiative

By Jean-Yves Garnier, Head, Energy Statistics, International Energy Agency

The end of the 1990's was characterised by volatile oil prices. What were the causes? Many blamed, whether wellfounded or not, the unusually high fluctuations on the lack of transparent oil statistics.

Rather than point fingers at consumers, producers or traders (or all of them combined), a momentum was created by the 7th International Energy Forum (Riyadh November 2000) to work on availability and reliability of oil data. Indeed, both producer and consumer countries recognised the need for more and better transparency in the oil market, and one of the concluding messages of this meeting was that more international co-operation among international organisations and countries was needed to remedy some of the current problems with oil statistics.

Just a few days earlier in November 2000, six key International Organisations involved in oil statistics attended a meeting at the IEA Headquarters in Paris. Representatives from APEC, Eurostat, OECD/IEA, OLADE, OPEC, and the UN investigated differences between definitions, units and methodologies and solutions were sought for a better harmonisation of statistical systems. The need for strengthening international co-operation and for involving Member Countries in the transparency process was emphasised.

As a result, a follow-up workshop on Oil Data Transparency was organised, to which each International Organisation invited 3-4 of its Member Countries. This meeting took place in Bangkok on 2-3 April 2001. The six organisations and 20 countries analysed the current situation with oil statistics, highlighted problems and searched for ways to improve oil data transparency. They agreed to launch and participate in a six-

month trial data reporting exercise (Joint Oil Data Exercise, or JODE), whose objective was to quantify and qualify the availability and timeliness of basic monthly oil data.

The Joint Oil Data Exercise

On 10 May 2001, the six organisations met at the offices of the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna to finalise the format, the definitions and the details of implementation of the JODE questionnaire. In order to facilitate completion by as many countries as possible, the questionnaire requirements were kept simple, with each organisation taking responsibility for submissions from its own Member Countries (e.g.: Turkey to the IEA, Nigeria to OPEC, etc.). The first submission was scheduled for the end of June. The initial results were greater than could have been expected: e.g. for the IEA, 29 out of 30 countries sent submissions in June.

The Riyadh Meeting (10-12 November 2001)

The Riyadh Meeting, hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, offered the opportunity to review the progress achieved since June and to highlight some issues. Presentations and discussions brought forward important difficulties, co-operation was strengthened, and objectives and milestones were agreed. Moreover, despite the international situation and current oil market ambience, all participants reaffirmed their political willingness to go ahead on the road towards more transparency via the JODE questionnaire:

Participation: Based on reports from the organisations, 55 countries have participated in the exercise, representing over 70% of world oil production and over 80% of world oil demand. Given that the JODE exercise was only launched in June 2001, the results are encouraging. However, the exercise will be of real value when over 90% of world production and demand are reported.

Completeness: Completeness of the questionnaire ranks from very good for many OECD and other countries to poor for some of the UN countries, e.g. India, which only sent trade data in value, not in volume.

Timeliness: Timeliness needs to be increased; M-1 is considered by many as the ultimate target, however difficult to reach. Many countries are able to report

M-2 data for most flows and products, with some difficulty for trade data. Outside the OECD region, only a few countries, albeit large ones (e.g. Saudi Arabia, Russia and Brazil), are currently in a position to report M-1 data.

Quality: Quality and timeliness are closely interlinked. The IEA Secretariat and OPEC have begun evaluating the quality of Member Countries' submissions. The other organisations, however, have more difficulty because they do not have a regular monthly oil data system against which they can compare data. A compromise needs to be found between quality and timeliness, since oil market analysts are mainly interested in the most recent data and not in historical data. The other organisations will need to look into possibilities for quality control, as it is of utmost importance that data received are reliable and of reasonable quality.

Industry Involvement: Oil companies need to be closely involved in the process in order to speed up the information flow, to bring expert assistance to some specific issues such as methodology of refinery gains and reality of data quality. Of the oil companies invited to Riyadh, only a few sent representatives to the meeting, though others expressed their interest in the initiative but could not attend due to travel restrictions.

The Way Forward

Transparency will exist only when all countries actively participate. It is up to the organisations to make efforts to include their key member countries which have not yet participated: though not numerous, their participation is essential.

Transparency will exist only when data are complete. Information on oil stocks is perceived essential by oil analysts. A few countries regard this information as confidential (South Africa, China) and true transparency can only exist when they realise that bringing their data to the public forum will be beneficial to them and everyone else.

Transparency also requires data reliability. In the first phase of the Exercise, most of the efforts were centered upon obtaining data. Data reliability represents only one side of the exercise: political commitment, dialogue, co-operation, networking, raising the profile of statistics, building capacity and harmonisation are equally

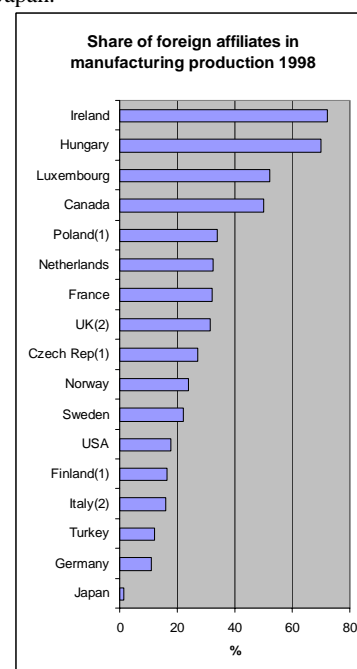
important. Yet quality control should be the focus of the second phase and training participants is the key to reaching that goal. APEC, OECD and UN are considering training sessions.

An exceptional effort has been and will continue to be made in the following months in preparation for the 8th IEF Meeting by all the participating international organisations, including the IEA. While the IEA has received political support from the Ministerial Meeting and financial support in the form of a few voluntary contributions, additional support will be needed.

The JODE exercise is a concrete illustration of the producer-consumer dialogue. Improved communication has resulted in improvements in several countries' oil reporting systems. However, the main objective remains: real improvements in market transparency through more reliable and timely data. Will this objective be achieved? The Meeting in Mexico in May 2002 will offer an appraisal in preparation for the report to the 8th International Energy Forum to be held in Osaka, September 2002.

Statistics to note

The share of firms under foreign control in the total turnover of the manufacturing sector in 1998 varied from 70% in Ireland and Hungary to under 2% in Japan.



(1) 1999, (2) 1997 Source: Measuring Globalisation: The Role of Multinationals 2001 in OECD Economics 2001 edition

Main Economic Indicators: Comparative Methodological Analysis Series

By Brian Finn, OECD

To facilitate better understanding by users of the statistics that the OECD compiles and publishes, the Organisation also produces an extensive range of methodological information on these statistics. The availability of this information is essential if users are to develop a comprehensive understanding of the comparability of the statistics compiled by different Member countries.

In this regard the Organisation has recently published the first in a new series of methodological information publications, *Main Economic Indicators: Comparative Methodological Analysis*, dealing with the economic indicators published in the monthly publication, *Main Economic Indicators* (MEI). The first volume focuses on industry, retail and construction indicators. Future editions will cover price indices, labour force (employment, unemployment and earnings), business and consumer opinions, composite leading indicators, foreign trade and finance.

The new publication differs from its companion publication *Main Economic Indicators: Sources and Definitions* insofar that it contains more extensive analysis of the methodologies that countries use to compile the indicators published in MEI. The analysis centres on issues of data comparability in the context of existing international statistical guidelines and recommendations published by the OECD and other international organisations such as the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The main aim of the series is to provide users with methodological information underlying the short-term indicators published in MEI. The information in each volume will also enable national statistical institutes and other agencies responsible for compiling economic indicators to compare their methodology and data sources with those used in other countries. It will also provide a range of options for countries in the process of creating new indicators or improving existing indicators.

However, the information in the publication is not intended to be as

detailed as that provided by national institutes responsible for compiling the indicators. Insofar as possible, the publication does contain information enabling the user to access more detailed methodological information available from the national compiler, particularly where such information can be accessed from websites. Nevertheless, it has not been possible to cover all methodological aspects relating to the indicators for every OECD Member country. Indeed, a secondary purpose of the publication is to highlight important areas where, for certain countries, gaps remain so that the national agencies responsible may take action to disseminate the required information with reference to what is available for other Member countries.

Of course, international data comparability is just one aspect of the broader issue of data quality, a subject to which national statistical institutes and international agencies have devoted much attention in recent years. Other aspects include accuracy, coverage, timeliness, etc. and the term "quality" includes a number of issues and trade-offs with regard to each aspect. The methodological analysis series focuses on one aspect that outlines definitions, sources and methods of compilation etc. of the indicators in question so that the comparability or lack of comparability of a statistical series can be better understood. It cannot provide all the answers to users' questions but it is a significant step in highlighting the methodological information that is available.

The publication *Main Economic Indicators: Comparative Methodological Analysis, Volume One* can be found at <http://www.oecd.org/std/mei>

Report on Statistical Programs in the United States

By Suzann Evinger, US Office of
Management and Budget

The United States has a decentralized statistical system with statutory responsibilities -- and hence budgets -- for producing statistics residing in the respective subject matter agencies. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Statistical Policy Office in the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, has responsibility for ensuring that budget proposals of agencies are consistent with system-wide priorities for maintaining and improving the quality of Federal statistics and for preparing an annual report on statistical program funding.

The most recent annual report, *Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2002*, outlines the funding proposed for Federal statistical activities in the President's budget. The budget requested an estimated \$4,111 million for statistical work to be carried out in FY 2002. (Final funding levels are subject to Congressional appropriations.) The information in this report covers Federal agencies that have annual budgets of \$500,000 or more for statistical activities. Approximately 40 percent of the overall funding for the statistical system provides resources for the following ten agencies that have statistical activities as their principal mission: Bureau of the Census, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Economic Research Service, Energy Information Administration, National Agricultural Statistics Service, National Center for Education Statistics, and National Center for Health Statistics. The remaining funding is spread among almost seventy other agencies that carry out statistical activities in conjunction with other program missions, such as providing services and benefits or enforcing regulations.

The report has three chapters. Chapter 1 outlines the effects of Congressional action on the President's FY 2001 budget request and the funding for statistics proposed in the President's FY 2002 budget. The chapter also includes information about statistical work performed by agencies on a reimbursable

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basis and about agency purchases of statistical services and products. Chapter 2 briefly describes the statistical activities of the individual agencies and highlights program changes proposed in the President's FY 2002 budget. Chapter 3 describes a number of ongoing and new agency and interagency initiatives to improve Federal statistical programs, including making better use of existing data collections while protecting the confidentiality of statistical information. In addition to detailed budgetary resources data, the appendices include information on staffing levels for the principal statistical agencies.

This report can be accessed on the Internet through the OMB web site: www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/ (go to "Information & Regulatory Policy", then to "Statistical Policy"). The report is also located at the one-stop shopping site for Federal statistical data: www.fedstats.gov/ (go to "Federal Statistical Policy"). At both sites users may also access the FY 1997 to FY 2001 versions of the Statistical Programs report.

Further information is available from sevinger@omb.eop.gov.

Labour Productivity Measures for the Non-Production Industries

By Chris Daffin, Geoff Reed and Prabhat Vaze, UK Office for National Statistics

Introduction

Productivity data are central in monitoring the economy and have a high political profile. However, productivity is difficult to measure accurately as it combines data on output and employment, and these have historically been measured using different surveys and different methodologies.

The UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) has instituted a range of developments to improve the measurement of productivity. The foundation for these has been the development of the new, comprehensive Annual Business Inquiry, which collects output and employment data together across the whole economy. The existing employment data have been reconciled with this, and the resultant new

productivity series were published in April 2001.¹ This and the most recent productivity measures published by ONS can be found on the productivity webpage at

www.statistics.gov.uk/productivity.

ONS publishes monthly and quarterly data: monthly output per job indices for manufacturing, quarterly output per job and output per hour indices for the whole economy, production and manufacturing sub-sections. These are largely based on data from the monthly production inquiry, which collects data on turnover and labour from a sample of firms in the production industries.

Until now, ONS has not published productivity estimates for the service industries because of known quality issues with the data. However a range of improvements are now being made to the output measures and these provide an opportunity for ONS to re-assess the potential for extending productivity estimates for the services industries.

Background

Outside the production section, the data on output and labour come from a variety of sources. ONS has consistently placed a high priority on improving measures of service sector output. During the 1990s a range of surveys was developed for the service industries, including those gathering information on quarterly turnover and on prices. This was taken further with the establishment of the new Index of Services (IoS) project, which is working towards the production of a monthly index by improving the data and methods used for estimating the output of service section industries. Further detail on the IoS project can be found in the December 2000 edition of *Economic Trends* or at www.statistics.gov.uk/ios.

For many services, firms are asked for the turnover of their business, for others it is not considered practicable or appropriate to collect turnover data. Where turnover is used as a service industry output it is deflated using the most appropriate available price indices and aggregated using weights based on the gross value added of the industry. In this way indices approximating the growth in constant price value added of the industry are produced. Underlying such short-term estimate indicators is the

assumption of a constant ratio between turnover and value added.

Recent changes to the 'labour' part of the labour productivity measure have been made that improve the consistency between the output and the input data. Productivity for the production industries have been published for some time by ONS and are considered to be of acceptable quality and are not reviewed in this article. The full article describes the composition of the output measures for the non-production industries and highlights features that could have a detrimental effect on the quality of some labour productivity measures compiled for these industries. For example some output measures use employment numbers as a proxy and in others the series use deflators that are related to employment, such as an earnings index. In such cases the relationship between the output and the input indicator has to be considered before the usefulness of labour productivity measures for non-production industries can be assessed.

For each industry section outside the production section, the article examines the case for producing productivity measures. It concludes that quarterly measures should be produced for sections G/H (Distribution, Hotels and Catering combined) and for G-P (Services combined) as well as annual measures for sections A/B (Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery combined). In addition the publication of a measure for the construction industry cannot be defended on quality issues and therefore has been withdrawn.

Consideration is also given to the way in which future improvements to sources can be expected to add to the range and quality of industry productivity estimates in the longer term. The full article presents the new experimental productivity data, which will appear quarterly on the ONS website see http://www.statistics.gov.uk/press_releases/Experimental.asp

The full article can be downloaded from: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/economy/Articles/General/extracts/download/labour_productivity_measures_for_non_production_industries.pdf

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¹ "Introducing New and Improved Productivity Data" C.Daffin *Economic Trends* no. 570 May 2001

NEWS IN BRIEF

OECD Working Party on Indicators of the Information Society

The Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS) will meet in Stockholm on April 25-26 2002 at the the **Norra Latin conference center**, Drottninggatan.

The WPIIS meeting is a forum to exchange country experiences on measuring the information society.

Many new surveys on ICT usage and e-commerce have been carried out since last year. A selection of country news and web references are set out below:-

Asia Pacific: useful address: Site of the Ad-hoc Technical Meeting of Asia/Pacific Statisticians on IT&T Statistics Overview papers on ICT statistics in Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Hong Kong

<http://www.abs.gov.au/852563C30080E02A/0/68A6515ECC6FFFBDCA256AF70081988E?Open>

Australia: Business use of IT: Data collection is currently underway for the 2000-2001 survey with results expected to be released in March 2002.

All information on Australian ICT statistics can be found on: <http://www.abs.gov.au/CA25670D007E9EA1/0/0312F14824E99117CA2568FD0018517C?Open>

Canada: *ICT use and e-commerce in business*: results of the 3rd economy wide survey coming out soon (25 March)

ICT sector statistics: the Canadian ICT Compendium, Beyond the Information Highway: Networked Canada, ICT Compendium, has now been updated and you can find it in "Information and Communication Technologies", downloadable from <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/56-506-XIE/56-506-XIE99000.pdf>

Denmark: just released! *The results of the 2001 survey on ICT use in business*: Moderate Increase in Internet Sales Internet commerce reached DKK 13 bn. in 2001

Enterprises with 5 or more employees obtained sales via the Internet amounting to just over DKK 13 bn. in 2001. This corresponds to just under 1% of turnover in private non-agricultural industries. In 2000 sales from the Internet were measured at approximately DKK 12 bn., and enterprises expected to see a twofold increase in sales via the Internet until 2001. Consequently, the development in Internet commerce among enterprises has not lived up to expectations.

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Eurostat: The results of the 2001 E-commerce pilot survey (covering 13 EU countries) will be published this spring. In the meantime a second survey on ICT usage in enterprise that is based on the OECD model questionnaire has been launched and will be carried out during 2002 (reference year 2001).

contact: Richard.Deiss@cec.eu.int

Finland: information on statistics of the information society are on: http://www.stat.fi/tk/yr/ttiede_en.html

The latest publication in October 2001: "On the Road to the Finnish Information Society III" provides a comprehensive view of information society developments in businesses, by individuals, in education.

contact: Lea.Parjo@stat.fi

Japan: In Japan there are at least 25 kinds of official statistical surveys containing questions related to ICT have been conducted in the past five years and at least 7 kinds or more of official statistical surveys related to ICT are scheduled to be conducted from fiscal year 2001 onwards. 21 are surveys for enterprise/establishment.

See more on: <http://www.stat.go.jp/english/iaos/paper/ito.pdf>

Forthcoming: Survey of IT Workplaces (SITW). The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) carries out this survey annually. The Survey was conducted on the end of June 2001 and its final results are expected to be released in April 2002.

Nordic Countries: released (December 2001): The ICT sector in the Nordic Countries 1995/2000

Besides times series of ICT sector employment and value added the publication also describes turnover in the ICT-sector and external trade with ICT-goods. The report can be downloaded from: http://www.ssb.no/ikt/ict_nord/main.html

Switzerland: For the latest news on Indicators for the Information Society in Switzerland visit the Website of the Swiss Federal Office of Statistics (in french and german): <http://www.infosociety-stat.admin.ch>

U.K.: The latest news on Internet access by household/individuals can be found in the December 2001 edition of "Internet Access" at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/intacc1201.pdf>

contact: eSociety@ons.gov.uk

Information on the measurement of e-commerce in the business sector can be found on:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/economy/articles/e_commerce.asp

United States: just released! *A Nation Online: How Americans Are Expanding Their Use of the Internet*

NTIA and the Economics and Statistics Administration have published *A Nation Online: How Americans Are Expanding Their Use Of The Internet*. This report is based on the September 2001 U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey - a survey of approximately 57,000 households and more than 137,000 individuals across the United States. As such, the data in this study are among the most broad-based and reliable datasets that have been gathered on Internet, broadband, and computer connectivity.

<http://www.esa.doc.gov/508/esa/nationonline.htm>

"*Main Street in The Digital Age: How Small Businesses Are Using the Tools of the New Economy*" examines the degree to which small- and medium-sized businesses are participating in the new economy. The term "new economy" was coined to describe an economy with surging productivity due largely to investment and use of information technologies like computers, software, and networks. If we are indeed in a "new economy," we would expect to see diffusion of these critical IT tools to businesses of all sizes throughout the economy. This report finds that small- and medium-sized businesses in

every industry are investing in information technologies and exploring the potential of these technologies. However, this research also shows that the smaller the firm, the less it invests in IT equipment on a per-employee basis.

<http://www.esa.doc.gov/508/esa/MainStreetDigitalAge.htm>

“**Digital Economy 2002**”, the US Commerce Department’s annual report on the information technology (IT) revolution, concludes that despite economic slowdown and recession, U.S. industries have continued to build the nation’s IT capital stock, add jobs in key IT employment categories, and create as a result the enduring foundation of a stronger economy.

<http://www.esa.doc.gov/508/esa/DIGITALECONOMY2002.htm>

The U.S. e-commerce numbers and updates can be found on: <http://www.census.gov/estats>

For further information: email alessandra.colecchia@oecd.org or go to www.oecd.org/sti/statistical-analysis

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

□ Measuring Globalisation The Role of Multinationals in OECD Economies, Volume I: Manufacturing Sector 2001 Edition

This publication presents detailed data on the role played by multinationals in the OECD economies. This year’s edition also includes data on the activity of affiliates of national firms abroad (outward investment).

Volume I provides data for the manufacturing sector covering 18 variables including production, employment, investment, research and trade. Part I presents the main findings and highlights trends for each of the variables displayed by foreign multinationals and domestic firms in total manufacturing industry and leading sectors as well as a detailed geographical breakdown. Part II provides basic data and shows the share of each sector controlled by foreign multinationals for the available industrial variables. Data sources and definitions are also provided.

These data provide a measure of the impact of foreign direct investment on the economies of the OECD countries. From this standpoint, they provide a vital backup for data on direct investment flows.

Also available on CD-ROM and on line at www.SourceOECD.org. For further reading, see International Direct Investment Statistics Yearbook which is available in paper, CD-ROM and online versions.

Volume II: Services 2001 Edition

Published for the first time, Volume II presents data for services. Five variables are covered: employment, turnover, value added, exports and imports.

These data provide a measure of the impact of foreign direct investment on the economies of the OECD countries. From this standpoint, they provide a vital backup for data on direct investment flows. Also available on CD-ROM line at www.SourceOECD.org.

□ PEB Exchange The Journal of the OECD Programme on Educational Building Vol 2002/1 February

This *PEB Exchange* issue has articles on:

1. Japan’s standards for school building size
2. Research and initiatives for a new approach to educational buildings in Italy
3. City and Islington College in the UK
4. Hungary’s educational community centres
5. Educational building in Latin America

□ International Development Statistics 2002 CD-ROM

Published by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD, this CD-ROM provides economists and researchers with a unique source of up-to-date comparative development statistics and information on: volume, origin and types of aid and other resource flows to over 180 aid recipient countries; individual aid activities on bilateral/multilateral Official Development Assistance or Official Aid commitments by sector, donors, recipient, with detailed information on projects; amount and composition of the external debt of over 170 aid recipient countries; key development indicators; Aid charts for DAC members, recipient countries/territories and regions. This new edition includes: DAC/GEO (Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Aid Recipients, 1960-2000) and EDS (External Debt Statistics, 1975-2000) databases which are in user-friendly Beyond 20/20TM; CRS (Creditor Reporting System, 1973-2000) and DCR/STATS (Statistical Annex of the 2001 Development Co-operation Report) databases which are in CSV and/or Microsoft™ Excel format; Aid at a Glance, including Aid Charts for DAC Members, recipient countries/territories and regions; A detailed documentation for each database; A free annual subscription to the International Development Statistics Online databases allowing access to the most up-to-date data. For further information, consult: www.oecd.org/bookshop and www.oecd.org/dac/stats.

□ OECD Labour Market Statistics: 2001 Edition CD-ROM (1-10 users version)

This new OECD CD-ROM provides a unique set of annual labour market statistics for OECD Member countries. The series cover: population, labour force, employment and unemployment, broken down by gender, employment status and sector of activity, participation and unemployment rates, statistics on part-time employment and duration of unemployment. Most series cover the period 1970-2000.

The CD-ROM also contains a number of additional series that provide new perspectives on labour markets in OECD Member countries. These series cover: annual hours of work data, gross earnings distributions for full-time workers by gender, minimum wage series, compensation of employees, wage rates, taxation of wages, public expenditures on labour market programmes, gross and net unemployment benefits replacement rates, newly developed indicators on the strictness of employment protection legislation, trade union density rates and collective bargaining coverage in Member countries.

A limited set of macro-economic indicators (GDP, unit labour costs, price deflators, exchange rates, etc.) is also included. This CD-ROM includes longer time series and more detailed disaggregations than the printed version Labour Force

Statistics. It also provides information on the sources and definitions used by Member countries. The database is supplied with Beyond 20/20TM. Technical documentation is included. Also available online at www.SourceOECD.org.

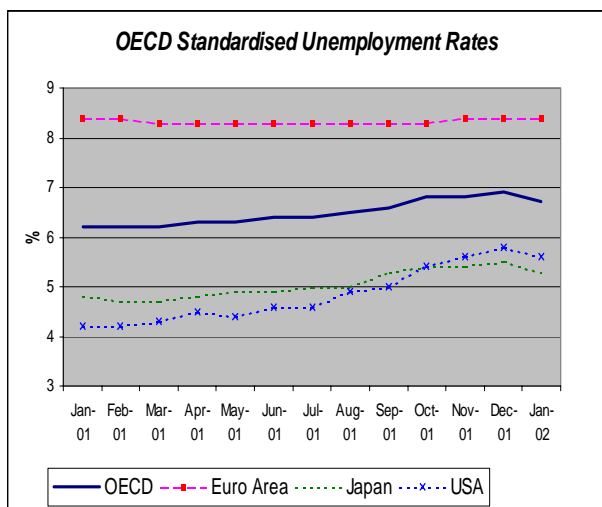
RECENT PRESS RELEASES

OECD Standardised Unemployment Rate Falls to 6.7% in January 2002

The standardised unemployment rate for the OECD area (1) was 6.7% in January, 0.2 percentage points lower than the previous month, and 0.5 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

In the Euro area, the unemployment rate remained at 8.4% in January 2002, the same rate as a year earlier. For the United States, the standardised unemployment rate was 5.6%; 0.2 percentage points lower than the previous month, but 1.4 percentage points higher than a year earlier. The January unemployment rate for Japan was 5.3%, 0.2 percentage points lower than the previous month, but 0.5 percentage points higher than in January 2001.

Over the previous twelve months to January 2002 the standardised unemployment rates rose for France from 8.6% to 9.0%, for Germany from 7.7% to 8.1% and for Canada from 6.9% to 7.9%. The standardised unemployment rate for the United Kingdom was 5.1% in November 2001 and 9.3%



for Italy in October 2001

More Women in All Forms of Migration

Statistics on international migration by gender that make it possible to identify the characteristics of migrants are scarce and hard to obtain. However, they can be evaluated with varying degrees of accuracy and consistency using census data and employment statistics. For example on the basis of various censuses conducted in 1990, the United Nations Population Division estimated the total number of women living outside their country of birth at 57 million, or 48% of all migrants.

It appears that recently there has been a trend towards the feminisation of migration. This is particularly obvious from changes in the proportion of women in total immigration

flows between 1990 and 1999 (see Table). The trend is particularly marked in Portugal and, to a lesser degree, in the Netherlands, Finland and Switzerland, where the proportion of women in inflows has risen by over 1% since 1990. In 1999 the share of women in the overall immigration flow (nationals and foreigners) ranged between 41% for Germany and 56% for Greece. For most of the countries studied, however the percentage was close to 50%. It was slightly higher than that for USA, Canada, UK, the Nordic countries and Belgium and slightly lower for Austria, Netherlands, Denmark and Switzerland.

The trend towards feminisation in fact affects all components of migration flows. In recent years women have formed an increasing proportion of employment-related migration and refugee flows, whereas earlier female migration to OECD countries was largely by family reunion. But reunion still remains the chief vector of female immigration in most of the OECD countries (between 50 and 80% of the total for this category of flow.)

Proportion of women in immigration flows in selected OECD countries, 1999 (unless otherwise indicated)

	Proportion of women in immigration flows, %	Average annual growth since 1990 ¹
Australia (1999-2000) ²	48.2	-0.4
Austria (1998)	46.5	..
Belgium	50.7	0.9
Canada	51.0	-0.5
Denmark (1998)	49.7	0.4
Finland	50.3	1.4
France ³	52.8	0.4
Germany	41.3	-0.1
Greece (1998) ⁴	56.8	0.3
Luxembourg	46.4	-1.1
Netherlands	49.1	1.7
Norway(1998)	50.1	0.1
Portugal	48.6	4.3
Spain(1998)	50.1	0.4
Sweden	51.6	0.9
Switzerland	49.8	1.2
UK	50.6	0.2
USA (1997-98)	53.5	0.4

Note: For Canada and the USA, data refer to the number of permanent resident permits delivered to immigrants; for Australia, to effective entries of permanent and long-term residents. For the European countries data refer to people (excluding nationals for France, Greece and Portugal), who wish to settle permanently in the country.

1. 1992 for Portugal; 1993-94 for Australia; 1994 for Luxembourg; 1995 for Canada

2. Data refer to fiscal year (July 1999 - June 2000)

3. Data relate only to entries of foreigners (excluding refugees and people who benefited from the regularisation programme)

4. Data relate only to entries of foreigners (excluding returns of nationals)

5. Data refer to fiscal year (October 1997 to September 1998). Annual average growth is calculated without taking into account people who benefited from the IRCA regularisation procedure.

Sources: Eurostat (New Cronos database); Australian Bureau of Statistics; Citizenship and Immigration Canada; Office des migrations internationales (France) and US Department of Justice.

For further information see "Trends in International Migration" OECD, 2001 edition.

OECD Composite Leading Indicator increases in January 2002: Improvement for G7 countries

The Composite Leading Indicator (CLI) for the OECD area increased by 1.1 points in January 2002 to 114.5 from 113.4 in December. At the same time, the six-month rate of change improved for four consecutive months.

The CLI for the United States increased by 2.2 points in January and its six-month rate of change also improved for three consecutive months. The CLI for the Euro area increased by 0.7 point in January. The area's six-month rate of change improved for four consecutive months. The CLI for Japan increased by 0.2 point in January. Japan's six-month rate of change has improved for five consecutive months.

The CLI for the United Kingdom increased by 0.6 point in January and its six-month rate of change improved. The CLI for Canada increased by 2.0 points in January and its six-month rate of change has improved since January 2001. Finally, the CLIs for France and Germany increased in January as did their six-month rates of change.

ONLINE ACCESS DEVELOPMENTS

Labor force data available electronically from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics

*By Emy Sok**

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides many ways to access labor force data from its monthly household survey (the Current Population Survey or CPS) electronically. The data are available at the Bureau's Current Population Survey homepage at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm>. Detailed information about the survey itself can be found at <http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/cpsmain.htm>.

Published news releases categorized by topic can be accessed from the link "Economic News Releases," which also contains archived reports. Another publication, the *Monthly Labor Review*, the principal journal of the BLS provides a wealth of

research on a variety of fields including the labor force, the economy, productivity, inflation, wages, and much more. Its online version can be accessed at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/mlrhome.htm>.

The Bureau's web site provides CPS data through LABSTAT, the main database of labor statistics for the BLS. LABSTAT contains historical series (monthly, quarterly and annual average) of employment data. The link, "Most Requested Statistics" allows users to select items from a topic-specific list. LABSTAT also provides access to "Historical Data" for series published in the monthly Employment Situation News Release through a form-based retrieval system. In addition, the CPS page provides a link to an ftp site containing selected historical monthly, quarterly and annual labor force information from the Current Population Survey. Finally, "Series Reports" allow users to specify which time series they wish. For this feature, users may have to contact the Bureau's Division of Labor Force Statistics (below) to obtain the necessary series identifiers.

Another source for CPS data is FERRET (the Federal Electronic Research and Review Extraction Tool) at <http://ferret.bls.census.gov/>. Through FERRET, data users can obtain access to public-use microdata files from the basic CPS, as well as files containing data collected in the various supplements. (Supplements are questionnaires regularly added to the Basic CPS covering a variety of subjects such as school enrollment, annual work experience, and income.) FERRET users can extract files (CPS files can also be purchased from the Census Bureau on CD-ROMs) or create tabulations from microdata. This web site is intended for experienced users who are very familiar with the concepts and definitions of the CPS and the structure of CPS microdata.

For further information, contact the Division of Labor Force Statistics at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (e-mail address: cpsinfo@bls.gov)

*Emy Sok is an economist in the Division of Labor Force Statistics, US Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Forthcoming OECD Statistics Meetings

N.B. Unless otherwise indicated attendance at OECD meetings and Working Parties is by invitation only.

2002

25-27 March Meeting on Non-Observed Economy, Zagreb, *Statistics Directorate* (STD),

2-5 April Development Assistance Committee Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT **Informal meeting**), Paris, *Directorate for Co-operation and Development*, (DCD)

8-9 April Meeting of Country Representatives On Special Educational Needs Statistics And Indicators, Paris, *Centre for Education Research and Innovation* (CERI)

8-12 April Meeting on Non-Observed Economy, Moscow, *Statistics Directorate*, (STD)

9-11 April Committee on Industry and Business Environment Statistical Working Party – Session on Globalisation, Paris, *Directorate for Science Technology and Industry* (DSTI)

17-19 April Joint Working Party of the Committee for Agriculture and the Environment Policy Committee, Paris, *Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries* (AGR)

23-26 April Joint OECD/UNECE Meeting on National Accounts, Geneva, *Statistics Directorate* (STD)

25-26 April ICCP Committee Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS), Stockholm, Sweden *Directorate for Science Technology and Industry* (DSTI),

13-15 May Third Ad Hoc meeting on Biotechnology Statistics, *Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry* (DSTI)

27-31 May Meeting on Purchasing Power Parities Program for CIS Group, Moscow, *Statistics Directorate* (STD)

4-5 June Development Assistance Committee Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT), Paris, *Directorate for Co-operation and Development* (DCD)

7-9 October Norway/OECD Expert Meeting on Agricultural Landscape Indicators: Oslo, Norway.

Other International Statistical Meetings

27-29 August IAOS Official Statistics and the New Economy, London – see <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/IAOS>

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DATABASE OF THE MONTH

OECD Business Statistics Databases

Short-term and Structural Statistics on Industry and Services

The OECD Business Statistics databases, which cover all economic activities at a very disaggregated level, have been developed under the auspices of the Committee for Industry and Business Environment, some twenty years ago, in order to monitor short-term and structural economic trends in OECD countries. They have been continuously revised and completed to meet the needs of analysts for comparable data on emerging areas of the economic activities, including ICT sectors and services.

The OECD collects and publishes a wide range of statistics by detailed economic activity. Both short-term indicators, based on monthly or quarterly national surveys, and annual detailed activity data, relating to structural variables, most of them originating from annual business surveys carried out by Member countries, supplemented by data drawn from censuses and administrative sources, are available according to the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC revision 3) and broken down to the 4th digit level of the classification.

1. The short term database and its related publication *Indicators of Industry and Services (IIS)*

IIS provides an overall view and a basis for analysis of recent economic developments in different industries and services for OECD countries and major geographic zones.

The database contains short-term indicators, based on monthly and quarterly national surveys, in the form of indices converted to a common base year (1995=100) and adjusted as necessary for seasonal variations:

- *for industrial sectors production*
 - turnover;
 - new orders;
 - producer prices;
 - and employment.
- *for service sectors*(depending on the availability and under development)
 - turnover;
 - employment;
 - and producer prices.

The statistics are now based on ISIC revision 3 and are available from 1990 onwards depending on countries. Data based on ISIC revision 2 are available from 1975 to 1998 on the base year 1990=100.

Also available are quarterly qualitative data (up to the 2nd digit level of ISIC revision 2 or ISIC revision 3) derived from business tendency surveys carried out in OECD Member countries. They reflect the judgement of respondents on issues such as the current business situation (stocks of finished goods or order goods) and their assessment of the direction of short-term changes in indicators such as output, order received and labour force. The collection and publication of such data relating to detailed economic sectors have been suspended as from 2002.

Methodological information relating to the sources and standards, concepts and coverage, data collection and manipulation and dissemination is also collected and available on request.

2. The structural database and its related publication *Structural Statistics for Industry and Services (SSIS)*

SSIS permits an assessment of the evolution of the economic structure of OECD Member countries. It contains official annual structural data for detailed industry and service sectors which cover a number of variables such as:

- production , preferably at producers' prices;
- value added, preferably at factor costs;
- investment;
- investment in machinery and equipment;
- compensation of labour (for total persons engaged or for salaried employees);
- wages and salaries (for total persons engaged or for salaried employees);
- employers' social costs;
- employment (for total persons engaged, salaried employees, and females employed);
- number of establishments;
- number of enterprises;
- hours worked.

They are now based on ISIC revision 3 (up to 293 sectors) and are available from 1988 onwards depending on countries. Data based on ISIC revision 2 (up to 134 sectors, from 1970 to 1998 depending on countries) are also available.

Detailed information on sources and definitions is collected and published on a regular basis.

3. An additional **database on Statistics on Enterprises by size Class (*SEC*)** is under development. It already contains a wide number of structural statistics for a selected number of variables (with the same definition as *SSIS* variables), classified according to ISIC revision 3 (up to the 3rd or 4th digit level) and for about a dozen size classes (1-9; 10-19; 20-49; 50-99; 100-199; 200-249; 250-499; 500-1000; 1000 +; Total).

Accessing the data

Both short-term (IIS) and structural (*SSIS*) data are available on CD-ROM (Beyond 20/20) and via the OECD's on line service SourceOECD. Government agencies can access the data via OLISnet. Paper versions of the publications are also available but with less detailed information (number of sectors and number of periods covered).

Contacting us

We welcome any comments and requests you may have on these databases.

Please contact the Statistics Directorate:

By email : std.indservstat@oecd.org

By regular mail: STD, Business Statistics Unit, 2 rue André Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16.