

and underlined the need to ensure the relevance of the revised System, to reflect the changes in the economy, as well as the importance of avoiding the adoption of different systems in the various regions of the OECD. The Committee also asked international organisations to work towards the preparation of handbooks to help countries in the implementation of SNA changes and called on the OECD to help in communicating to policy makers and other users the changes due to the revision of the SNA.

The Committee also noted that countries would implement the revisions at different times over the next five to seven years, and this could create problems for the international comparability. Finally, it recognised that national accounts are widely used for administrative purposes and underlined that decisions on statistical methodologies should be taken on the basis of the UN fundamental principles of official statistics.

The Future Dissemination of OECD Statistics

The Committee endorsed the proposals made by the Secretariat which included policy measures for dissemination of OECD statistics based on an analysis of user needs and a taxonomy for OECD statistical products based on three types of products (OECD Statistics, OECD Core Data, and OECD Figures and Facts), and a list of access principles that should be used to increase the dissemination of free data without putting at risk current and future revenues.

Further it was also proposed to set up joint web sites with interested countries, focusing on the country as a member of the OECD and providing comparisons with other member countries, drawing on OECD as well as national sources. It was also proposed to channel OECD metadata to web sites of national statistical offices.

Discussion of Technical Assistance for Statistical Capacity Building in Developing Countries

A number of papers were presented that highlighted the need for more sustained and coordinated technical assistance by OECD economies for statistical capacity building in developing countries, to assist policy makers monitoring important programmes such as Poverty Reduction Strategies and the Millennium Development Goals and for better aid effectiveness as recognised by the Paris Declaration, and noted the considerable progress made using “twinning” initiatives, such as those of CIDA/Statistics Canada and by SIDA/Statistics Sweden. Other successful approaches mentioned in discussion included regional support programmes such as Afristat in francophone Africa and the Australian and New Zealand approach to support small Pacific islands.

Moreover, the fundamental importance of statistical capacity building as a development issue itself and not simply as the technical aspect of some other development issues was highlighted and the Committee noted the considerable potential offered by the International Roundtables on Managing for Development Results where agreed frameworks, including the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics and National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs), exist.

During the discussion, it was noted that a key issue in developing countries is to develop an effective dialogue between NSOs and policy makers, and in developed countries between NSOs and their international development agencies, in order to highlight the importance of statistics and sustained support for statistical capacity building. It was also noted that the Third Roundtable on Managing for Development Results to be held in Vietnam in February 2007 would

be a major opportunity to sensitise development agencies to the need for better statistics.

The OECD Project on Entrepreneurship

The Secretariat presented plans for development of internationally-comparable entrepreneurship indicators. The presentation recommended that an Entrepreneurship Indicators Steering Group, reporting to CSTAT, should oversee development of a Measurement Manual, including frameworks, concepts, definitions, and model questions, as well as a regular Scoreboard or Compendium of Entrepreneurship Indicators.

The plan envisages development of indicators using possible new surveys as well as existing data sources, notably self-employment data, structural business statistics and register based data on firm dynamics. A pilot survey to test key concepts and questions is planned for late 2007 or early 2008. Countries expressed strong support for the project, but that at the same time suggested some caution about introducing new data collections, to use existing data to the greatest extent possible and to ensure that the links between policy issues and statistical requirements were at the forefront. The Committee also recommended that the OECD organise a conference to discuss recent experiences in collecting entrepreneurship-related data, and data gaps.

OECD World Forum on Key Indicators

The Secretary General of the OECD has already highlighted the importance of this development in his opening remarks and further information on the project is given later in this Newsletter. To summarise however, the Committee endorsed the project, stressing its importance. Several delegations expressed their support for the

various initiatives and provided useful suggestions both on the indicators and the organisation of the second World Forum.

Quality reviews: Health Statistics

The Secretariat (Health Division) highlighted the main characteristics of past, current, and future work on health statistics at the OECD and the results of the quality review of OECD Health Data carried out in the second half of 2005. The current OECD programme of work on health statistics at the OECD covers three broad areas: OECD Health Data; Health Accounts and Health Care Quality Indicators. The Committee strongly supported this OECD work programme and acknowledged the quality of the statistical work carried out by the Health Division. It also welcomed the progress achieved in the collaboration among international organisations, as illustrated by the joint OECD, Eurostat, and WHO data collection for satellite Health Accounts (SHA), as well as other efforts to harmonise data collection on non-expenditure health statistics. The Committee emphasised the importance of maintaining close co-operation among the three international organisations particularly in the context of the revision of the SHA manual.

The OECD Trade Indicators Project (TIP) - an Interactive Tool for Researchers and Analysts

By Andreas Lindner and Florian Eberth, OECD

Background

International trade in goods and services is a major component of the globalisation process. To illustrate this point, OECD countries volume of world merchandise trade at the end of the 1990s was 16 times that in 1950 while during the same period, its weight in world GDP “only” tripled.

The OECD has a very rich experience in globalisation analysis and the horizontal capacity to look at phenomena from different angles, for instance, the role played by multinationals, Foreign Direct Investment, detailed structural business statistics by size class and so forth. The Statistics Directorate and other OECD Directorates are actively involved in managing globalisation-related databases and in analyzing key trends. But that rich evidence was scattered, incomplete and also sometimes inconsistent in the approach and methodologies used.

Therefore, STD launched the “**Trade Indicators Project (TIP)**” and organised a first OECD Roundtable Meeting end of September 2002, bringing together colleagues from other OECD Directorates and representatives from the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade (ICE) and an expert from an Italian university as adviser.

Since then, a set of Trade Indicators, encompassing the methodology for each of them, has been elaborated, covering both aggregated and detailed levels. This process has been fully integrated into OECDs’ work on trade statistics and discussed at the yearly OECD International Trade Statistics (ITS) Expert meetings (the meeting documents are available at: http://www.oecd.org/topicstatsportal/0,2647,en_2825_495663_1_1_1_1_1,00.html#499708)

Current Overall Structure of TIP

The Trade Indicators data set is divided into country-level “Macro” indicators and 2-digit-level commodity/industry/service “Micro” indicators. The former contains at present in total 28 Trade Indicators. Since early 2006, the database has been extended step-by-step by the Micro Trade Indicators subset. This feature provides unique tools for in-detail-analysis of trade intensity and

specialisation at the level of commodities, types of services and sectors. The Micro Trade Indicators show the revealed comparative advantage (RCA), the OECD market share, the trade balance and the export performance of each OECD member country, for a specific category of goods (by SITC classification or by HS), for a type of industry (by ISIC) and – to a currently more limited extent - for a type of services (by EPOBS). Micro Trade Indicators are available at current prices and current exchanges rates only.

Macro Trade Indicators, by:

total, goods, and services

1. Trade to GDP ratio
2. Trade balance - % of GDP
3. Import penetration rates
4. Export propensity
5. Trade per capita
6. Export Performance
7. Trade balance
8. Normalised Trade Balance
9. Market Share
10. Herfindahl index (goods only) of geographical concentration

Macro Trade Indicator:

The Macro Trade Indicators summarise the overall position of trade for each OECD member country, either on total level (goods and services), on the level of merchandise trade or on the level of trade of services. Measurements at current and constant prices are available. This approach allows quick rankings of countries as well as establishing country profiles. For example, Chart 1 below shows an alternative way of looking at trade balances, the “**Normalised Trade balance**”, used in TIP. In this comparison the trade balance of a country is related to the total trade of that country. This “normalisation” provides a complement to the more classic presentations of the net trade balance (exports minus imports as a percentage of GDP).

The above example gives a rough idea what an analyst could get out of TIP. But there is much more. To make TIP a truly unique tool, two major innovations have been

implemented this year: First, to allow interactive tailoring to specific data needs customisable pivot charts (see Chart 2) for the Macro Trade Indicators have been provided for customization and download. Second, fixed individual country profile tables and charts, have been calculated and made available online, too. These country profiles allow an immediate appreciation of 9 key indicators over up to 45 years by country. Levels and trends become immediately apparent, including moving averages and trend lines.

Micro Trade Indicators:

The four currently selected Micro Trade Indicators, e.g. the specialisation degree of a country, can be immediately visualized and analyzed at two-digit level of three alternative classifications (HS, SITC and ISIC). Country patterns, including the possibility to rank countries by year, become immediately visible and facilitate economic research and analysis. It should be underlined again that the whole set of indicators is fully consistent with respect to adopted measurement standards and calculations. It is an integrated set of indicators within one conceptual framework.

Chart 3 visualises the dominant specialisation of Ireland in exporting goods of SITC75 ('Office machines and automatic data processing equipment'), since the late 1970s. This well-known phenomenon of Ireland as "gateway" to Europe for PCs and software, the sustained attractiveness for foreign companies to "bundle" together PC exports and services in this country largely because of attractive corporate taxes, is reflected in this graph.

More Micro Trade Indicators examples can be obtained from the TIP document of the 7th OECD International Trade Statistics Expert Meeting (ITS) <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/46/16/37369039.pdf>.

Data Access, and First User Access Statistics

The OECD Statistics Portal page on International Trade and Balance of Payments Statistics http://www.oecd.org/about/0,2337,en_2649_34235_1_1_1_1_1,00.html provides background information and links to each TIP dataset, as well as country profiles for each of the thirty OECD member countries. With this addition, users can now readily access detailed commodity trade statistics, monthly trade data, services trade statistics and Balance of Payments statistics. The addition of customisable and calculated trade indicators, including country profiles, provides an important and unique addition. The TIP databases themselves are accessible both from external (OLIS.net and general Internet access) and internal. The browser allows customized data queries from the data sets. Columns and rows of the resulting table can be individually set/adjusted, and so can the elements (reference years, indicators, countries etc.). The query's result can be saved in (XML-) Excel format or as CSV file. Do users across the world access this new OECD service? Yes, very much so already. Chart 4 shows the monthly development of the external access to the TIP datasets through the browser for the last three months. The constant increase in external demand for the TIP data is obvious. In the year-to-date for example (to September 2006), the macro trade indicators had already notched up more than 40 000 external accesses.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The following broad lines of action can be identified: further the automation of the calculation/compilation process of the indicators allowing more regular and consistent updates of all indicators. Dynamic links and automatic update procedures have been tested but need to be integrated in the new working environment. The ultimate goal would be that indicators are

automatically recalculated and/or updated when basic data changes. This process would, nevertheless, need a validation routine to avoid accidental release.

Development of advanced visualisation options: A good graphic presentation is an important element for international indicators. On the bottom line, and besides "nicer look"-options, this means a visual integration through reduction of dimensions in one graph. An example would be to have a dynamic time axis on which the progress and changing size of country indicators are visualised through time, thus integrating the temporal dynamics.

Still more Trade in Services data is needed containing cross tabulations by products and partner countries (enabling more micro trade indicators for services).

As TIP has been right from the outset designed as a set of "trade plus" indicators, it is envisaged to add more indicators capable to shed light on globalisation patterns. Aspects such as production, employment, FDI/FATS, intra-firm trade and the role of multinationals need to be integrated into the TIP. This extension would necessitate consultation with external and internal stakeholders. A 2nd Roundtable Meeting on Trade Indicators in 2007 is proposed to provide steerage for this process. Such a meeting should ideally take place in a co-operating OECD country.

Related to the above, the issue of links of customs sources with enterprise structural statistics, as discussed at the 1st OECD Steering Group Meeting on linking trade to SBS statistics this June in Ottawa, will hopefully allow building up Trade Indicators on enterprise-characteristics. This last development, already well underway in the EU, would constitute a key addition to OECDs battery of policy-relevant globalisation indicators.

Chart 1: Normalised Trade Balance (goods), 2004, in % at current prices and exchange rates

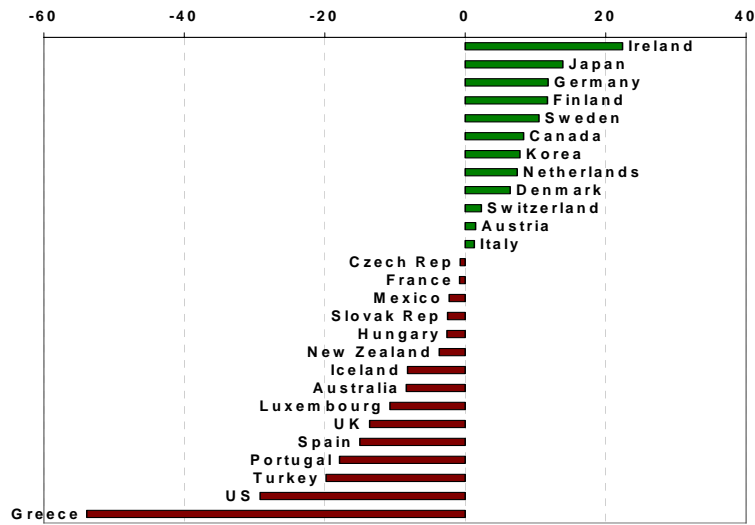


Chart 2: Pivot Chart (Macro Trade Indicators)

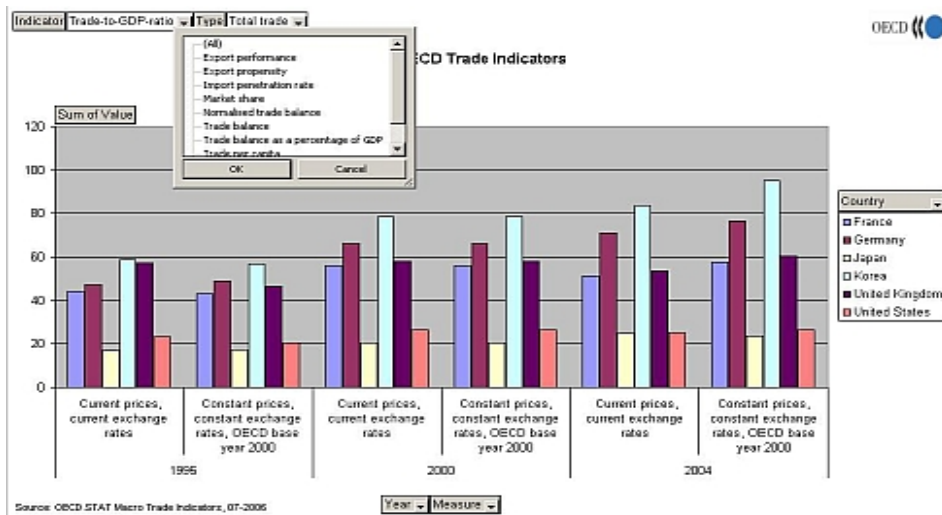
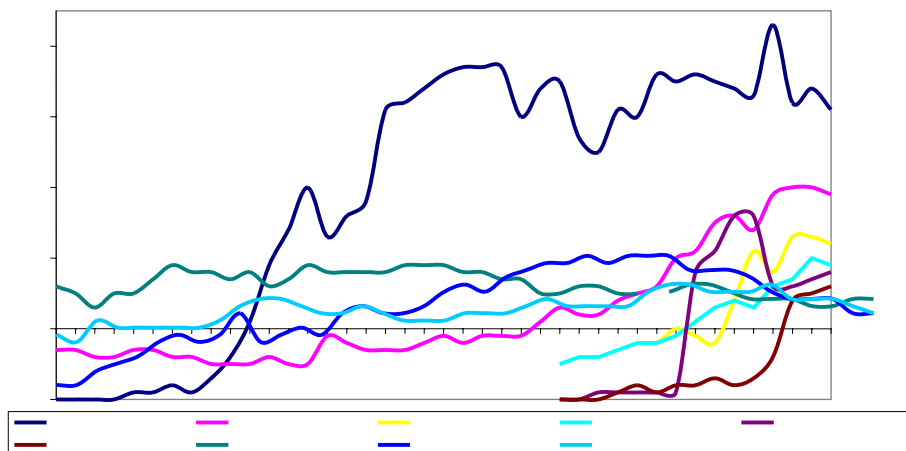


Chart 3: Revealed comparative advantage SITC75: Office machinery etc



**Annual Update of OECD
Short-Term Economic
Statistics Timeliness
Framework**

By Richard McKenzie, OECD

In recent years there has been a lot of pressure on national statistics organisations (NSOs) to better serve their users by improving the timeliness of release for their short-term economic indicators. In response to this demand, NSOs have focused on improving the efficiency and methodology of their statistical production processes. So this begs the question: where would one look to find comprehensive documentation on good practices used by NSOs to improve the timeliness of their short-term economic statistics? The answer is the *STES Timeliness Framework*, for which a newly revised version is now available on the OECD website at <http://www.oecd.org/std/research/timeliness>.

The Short-Term Economic Statistics (*STES*) *Timeliness Framework* is a structured collection of documentation on a range of *good practices* currently used by NSOs for improving timeliness, reducing costs or improving accuracy in the production of STES, for those indicators produced from business surveys and/or administrative records of businesses. It was created by a taskforce of the OECD Short-Term Economic Statistics Working Party (STESWP), as a tool to assist NSOs in improving the timeliness of the short-term economic statistics they produce. The framework was first launched in September 2004 and has recently been updated with new documentation reflecting developments in this field over the past year.

Two approaches, undertaken at annual frequency, are used to collect documentation for inclusion in the *STES Timeliness Framework*. The first consists of a literature

| Broad statistical process | Links to documentation on proven operational methods to improve timeliness or reduce costs for short-term economic statistics |
|---|---|
| 1 Frame selection and administrative data use | 1.1 Direct Use of Administrative Data for Short-Term Statistics |
| | 1.2 Maintaining Survey Frames from Administrative Data Sources |
| 2 Questionnaire design | 2.1 Flexible Questionnaire and Form Design |
| | 2.2 Minimising Data Items Collected |
| 3 Sample design and selection | 3.1 Efficient Sample Designs |
| | 3.2 Sample Designs for Sub Samples |
| | 3.3 Effective Business Selection Methods |
| 4 Reference period & due dates | 4.1 Choice of Reference Periods |
| | 4.2 Due Date for Businesses Providing Data |
| 5 Data collection and validation (editing) | 5.1 Efficient Data Collection Methods Using Technology |
| | 5.2 Follow Up of Non Respondents |
| | 5.3 Automated Data Validation (Editing) Methods |
| | 5.4 Selective (or Significance) Editing |
| | 5.5 Effectively Combining Technology and Staff Resources |
| | 5.6 Relationships with Respondents |
| 6 Estimation | 6.1 Data Imputation Methods |
| | 6.2 Preliminary Estimates from Sub Samples |
| | 6.3 Estimation Based on Lower Response Rates |
| | 6.4 Preliminary Estimates Based on Statistical Models |
| 7 Evaluation & dissemination | 7.1 Assessment of User Requirements |
| | 7.2 Analysis of Revisions |
| | 7.3 Quality Assessment of Timeliness Improvements |
| | 7.4 Use of Benchmarking Techniques |
| | 7.5 Efficient Dissemination Processes |
| 8 Overview | 8.1 Papers Covering Several Methods to Improve Timeliness |
| | 8.2 All Papers Sorted by Country |

search of statistical journals, international conferences and workshop proceedings which have covered issues relating to short-term economic statistics. The second involves a formal request to the STESWP representative of each OECD country to identify and provide relevant existing documentation from within their organisation. This documentation is then assessed by the task force to determine if it is suitable for inclusion in the framework. The key criterion for including a

document in the *STES Timeliness Framework* is that it must describe a method for achieving / improving timeliness or reducing costs with proven success.

Usage Statistics for the *STES Timeliness Framework*

Since its official launch in September 2004, the *STES Timeliness Framework* has proved to be very popular as measured by the OECD web trend statistics. In addition several people and

institutions, particularly those from non OECD countries, have 'registered' as users of the framework and thus receive a personal email notifying them when updates are made.

This popularity no doubt reflects the user friendly interface and extensive range of information included in the *STES Timeliness Framework*, which covers both methodological and operational good practices for improving timeliness or reducing costs of production. Both summary and detailed documentation on methods are accessed through the main reference table shown on the following page. The current documentation referenced within the framework comes from 22 different countries & international organisations, thus its diversity ensures its usefulness to all countries' NSOs that operate under a variety of different circumstances.

September 2006 update

10 documents across 9 of the 26 categories (see column 2 of the table below for a list of the framework's categories) were added to the *STES Timeliness Framework* as part of the September 2006 update. In addition, 2 papers were removed as part of the process to ensure all information included in the framework continues to be relevant. This process of annual updating ensures the framework is kept up to date with documentation which describes contemporary good practices and ensures it will continue to be a useful ongoing resource for NSOs. In addition NSOs are invited to submit papers at any time for assessment for inclusion within the framework, which also provides a good opportunity to gain wider recognition for their work.

Guidelines for the submission of documentation to be assessed for inclusion in the *STES Timeliness Framework* are available on the OECD website at:

The World Economy

The World Economy brings together two reference works by Angus Maddison: *The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective*, first published in 2001 and *The World Economy: Historical Statistics*, published in 2003.

This new edition contains *Statlinks*, a service providing access to the underlying data in Excel® format. These two volumes bring together estimates of world GDP for the past 2000 years and provide a unique perspective on the rise and fall of economies historically.

"A tour de force. What a wonderful gift for the new century." *Robert Mundell, Nobel Prize winner and Professor of Economics, Columbia University.*

"An essential reference for anyone interested in global development for many years to come." *Paul Krugman, Professor of Economics, Princeton University.*

"Quite simply a dazzling essay." *Nicholas Eberstadt, American Enterprise Institute.*

"Highly recommended . . . refreshing and full of historical information. An important book." *Kisanhani F. Emizet, Kansas University, writing in International Politics.*

http://www.oecd.org/document/42/0,2340,en_2649_34257_33630506_1_1_1_1,00.html. A more detailed version of the guidelines is also available at <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/13/6/33630498.pdf>. For more information on the *STES Timeliness Framework*, contact richard.mckenzie@oecd.org, or visit the framework home page at <http://www.oecd.org/std/research/timeliness>.

National Accounts Manual for Students

By François Lequiller, OECD

One of the most basic "cultures" that the OECD, under the direction of its member countries, has developed from its origin is the systematic use of statistics and hard data to support policy recommendations. In other words, policy recommendations or recommended best practices in all domains covered by the OECD (and they are very various) are systematically based on a deep and objective analysis of the statistics pertaining to the domain. Thus, statistics are essential to the OECD "culture". In fact, internationally comparable statistics are considered, as such, as one of the main outputs of the OECD.

In this context, the OECD Secretariat has particular interest in having an active contribution in the training of future macro-economists who will one day use OECD statistics. It is for this reason that the Statistics Directorate and the Publication and Communication Directorate decided to jointly prepare a manual entitled "Understanding National Accounts", designed for macro-economics students and other current and/or future users (and producers) of national accounts data for OECD countries and partner countries.

The book is not an OECD Manual in its strictest senses, as it was not

NEWS IN BRIEF

First International Exhibition on “Innovative Tools to Transform Statistics Into Knowledge”

The OECD World Forum “Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies” will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, 27-30 June 2007.

This event will provide an opportunity to organise the first international exhibition on “innovative tools to transform statistics into knowledge”. Stands will be available to showcase innovative computer tools and the world's best indicators systems.

The exhibition will contain powerful tools that help to create knowledge and to go beyond simple data presentation like interactive maps, dynamic graphs, animated graphics, demos on innovative web sites, blogs and other interactive web-based tools, software, state of the art databases, etc. Successful indicator initiatives measuring progress at the local, regional, national and international level will also be showcased. Videos developed to show the importance of the use of statistics in policy-making will be displayed and concrete experiences of E-learning will be presented.

Exhibitors will provide a valuable educational service to the attendees and will have the opportunity to expose their products to a very qualified audience of data users and providers.

Throughout the OECD World Forum and especially during coffee-breaks, short presentations on data dissemination and progress indicators will be organised. Large screens will present key economic, social and environmental statistics using innovative tools able to capture the attention of the users and make them able to better understand how our societies are progressing or worsening.

More information is available at: <http://www.oecd.org/oecdworldforum>. If you are interested in participating please contact Jeroen.Meyer@oecd.org

A Milestone Achievement: the New OECD Trade Databases

After considerable development work, both the OECD and UNSD now have in place the UN/OECD Joint Trade Data Collection and Processing System, where both Organisations share the updating and processing of trade data. Within the OECD, the “mirror” of Comtrade will be made available on OLIS in the forthcoming weeks.

Similarly, OECD's well known ITCS database for OECD countries is in the process of being fully integrated into the OECD data warehouse OECD.Stat, hence allowing cross-database search and extraction. It will be also accessible to outside users.

A detailed feature article on these developments will be included in the next Newsletter. For further information contact andreas.lindner@oecd.org.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

All OECD publications can be ordered on line at: <http://www.oecdbookshop.org>

▲ Education Policy Analysis: Focus on Higher Education – 2005/006 Edition

Education Policy Analysis draws on international perspectives to provide analysis of key education policy challenges and initiatives. This 2005 edition provides a window on this rich international experience with chapters on how to meet teachers' aspirations and enhance motivation, using formative assessment to help all students succeed, gender differences and mathematics, and policy directions for the growing international market in higher education.

▲ Revenue Statistics 1965-2005 – 2006 Edition

Data on government sector receipts, and on taxes in particular, are basic inputs to most structural economic descriptions and economic analyses and are increasingly used in international comparisons. This annual publication gives a conceptual framework to define which government receipts should be regarded as taxes and to classify different types of taxes. It presents a unique set of detailed and internationally comparable tax data in a common format for all OECD countries from 1965 onwards.

▲ Central Government Debt: Statistical Yearbook 1996-2005 – 2006 Edition

This volume provides quantitative information on central government debt instruments for the 30 OECD member countries to meet the analytical requirements of users such as policy makers, debt management experts and market analysts. Statistics are presented according to a comprehensive standard framework to allow cross-country comparison. Country notes provide information on debt issuance in each country as well as on the institutional and regulatory framework governing debt management policy and selling techniques.

Central Government Debt - Statistical Yearbook is also available online at www.SourceOECD.org.

▲ Energy Statistics of Non-OECD Countries: 2003/2004 – 2006 Edition

This volume contains data on energy supply and consumption in original units for coal, oil, gas, electricity, heat, renewables and waste for over 100 non-OECD countries. Historical tables summarise data on production, trade and final consumption. The book includes definition of products and flows and explanatory notes on the individual country data. In *Energy Balances of Non-OECD Countries 2003-2004*, the sister volume of this publication, the data are presented as comprehensive energy balances expressed in tonnes of oil equivalent.

▲ Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators – 2006 Edition

This 2006 edition of *Education at a Glance* enables countries to see themselves in the light of other countries' performance. It provides a rich, comparable and up-to-date array of indicators on the performance of education systems and represents the consensus of professional thinking on how to measure the current state of education internationally. The indicators look at who participates in education, what is spent on it and how education systems operate and the results achieved. The latter includes indicators on a wide range of outcomes, from comparisons of student's performance in key subject areas to the impact of education on earnings and on adults' chances of employment.

The Excel™ spreadsheets used to create the tables and charts in this book are available via the *StatLinks* printed in this book. The tables, charts and the complete Education Database are freely available via the OECD Education website at <http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2006>.

▲ The World Economy: Volume 1: A Millennial Perspective and Volume 2: Historical Statistics

The World Economy brings together two reference works by Angus Maddison: *The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective*, first published in 2001 and *The World Economy: Historical Statistics*, published in 2003. This new edition contains *Statlinks*, a service providing access to the underlying data in Excel® format. These two volumes bring together estimates of world GDP for the past 2000 years and provide a unique perspective on the rise and fall of economies historically. (See also the Box within the main body of the Newsletter for more information, including reviews).

▲ Handbook on Hedonic Indexes and Quality Adjustments in Price Indexes: Special Application to Information Technology Products

Price indexes can be constructed using a "hedonic method" that adjusts for changes in the *quality* of a product by focusing on a set of key product characteristics. This handbook contributes to a better understanding of the merits and shortcomings of conventional and hedonic price indexes and methods, and provides an analytic basis for choosing among them. It sets out "best practice" principles for constructing hedonic indexes and examines criticisms of hedonic indexes. The handbook brings together material that is now scattered in a wide number of places, but goes beyond the economic literature in significant respects. It has been written because there is a widespread view that the principles for conducting hedonic investigations are not readily assembled for statistical agency work, which is the primary audience of this volume.

OUT SOON

▲ OECD Science, Technology and Industry Outlook 2006

Science, technology and innovation have taken centre stage in efforts to boost economic growth and improve social well being. OECD countries and non-members alike are introducing far-reaching reforms to strengthen investments in science, technology and innovation, and to enhance their contribution to national economies in a context of increasing globalisation. What types of reforms have they introduced and what are the main issues they aim to address? What emerging issues will policy makers need to address to improve future innovation capabilities? What policies can best stimulate the creation, diffusion, and exploitation of knowledge in all sectors of an increasingly competitive, global economy? The *OECD Science, Technology and Industry Outlook 2006* aims to answer such questions by offering a comprehensive review of key trends in science, technology and innovation policy, and reviewing recent policy developments in OECD countries. In addition to examining main trends across the OECD, the report delves into specific topics that are high on the agenda of innovation policy makers, including the role of intellectual property rights and technology licensing markets in innovation performance, policies to enhance benefits of the globalization of business R&D, human resources for science and technology, and the evaluation of innovation policy. While retaining its focusing on developments in OECD countries, this issue of the biennial publication highlights key developments in a number of important non-Member countries, including China, Russia and South Africa. A statistical annex provides up-to-date statistics on R&D funding, patents, researchers and other indicators of innovative performance.

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Deadline for articles for the next issue: 04 December 2006

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Forthcoming OECD Meetings

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

| 2006 | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 25 October | Patent Statistics Task Force, <i>Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (STI)</i> , Vienna Austria |
| 26-27 October | OECD Conference on Micro-Data Access and Use, <i>Statistics Directorate (STD)</i> Luxembourg |
| 27 October | Visit Population Statistics – Sweden, <i>Public Affairs and Communication Directorate (PAC)</i> Paris |
| 5-6 November | 29 th Session of the Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, <i>Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (STI)</i> Athens, Greece |
| 6-10 November | 10 TH NBS-OECD Workshop on National Accounts “China” <i>Statistics Directorate (STD)</i> |
| 13 November | Harmonised Risk Indicators for Environmental Impacts of Pesticides, Working Group on Pesticides (HAIR) <i>Environment Directorate (ENV)</i> |
| 13-14 November | Statistical Working Party of the Industry Committee, <i>Science Technology and Industry Directorate (STI)</i> Paris |
| 4-5 December | OECD Entrepreneurship Indicators Steering Group meeting <i>Statistics Directorate (STD)</i> Rome |
| 4-7 December | Workshop on the Importance of Culture to the Economy, <i>Statistics Directorate (STD)</i> , Paris |
| 6-7 December | Joint ISTAT-Eurostat-OECD Seminar on Entrepreneurship indicators, Rome |

Other Statistics Meetings

| 2006 | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 25-26 October | Meeting on Statistical Confidentiality, Eurostat, Luxembourg |
| 30 October – 1 November | Regional Workshop on Use of Administrative Data in Economic Statistics, <i>United Nations Statistics Division</i> , Moscow Russian Federation |
| 13-15 December | Privacy in Statistical Databases, Rome Italy: http://vneumann.etse.urv.es/psd2006/ |

Database of the Month

The Gender, Institutions and Development (GID) Database

Presentation

The GID Database is an innovative new tool for researchers and policy makers to establish, test, and analyse various hypotheses regarding cross-country variations in gender equality. The database, which was compiled and introduced by the OECD Development Centre, constitutes an important improvement upon existing sources because it is the only comprehensive data collection on gender that systematically incorporates variables measuring gender inequalities that are rooted in social norms, traditional practices, and family laws. As research has shown, such social institutions can have an important impact on the socio-economic well-being of women and the long-term growth prospects of countries.

Coverage

The database presents data from 161 countries, covering all world regions and country income groups. With a few exceptions, economies with fewer than 1 million inhabitants are not included in the data base. The GID's comprehensive set of 50 indicators is divided into following sub-categories:

- Macroeconomic Country Information
- Economic Status of Women
- Women's Access to Resources
- Gender Equality and Social Institutions
- Composite Indicators of Gender Equality

Macroeconomic Country Information provides data on a country's income category, GDP per capita, economic growth, population size, population growth, and approximate size of women population.

Economic Status of Women presents information on women's participation in the labour market, the relative share of women in management and other professional or technical positions, and income differentials between men and women.

Women's Access to Resources focuses on male/female differences in education and health, looking at school enrolment rates, educational achievement, life expectancy, mortality rates, access to medical facilities and resources, population sex ratios, and fertility rates.

Gender Equality and Social Institutions, which are the database's true value added, present information on the prevailing family code, women's physical integrity, women's ownership rights in the dimensions land, financial credit, and property, as well as regulations inhibiting women's civil liberties such as an obligation to wear a veil in public or to have male company when leaving the house.

Composite Indicators of Gender Equality provide well-known indices of gender equality such as the Gender-related Development Index (GDI) and the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) of the United Nations Development Fund, as well as the Social Institutions Index (SII) of the OECD Development Centre which combines information on gender equality and social institutions.

Dissemination

The database can be downloaded from the GID's website (<http://www.oecd.org/dev/institutions/GIDdatabase>). This portal also contains detailed information on the construction of the database, the coding of the social institutions indicators and an illustration of the potential uses of the GID for policy and research questions.

Presenting cross-country data on social institutions is a new and innovative way to measure gender equality. The site therefore invites users to give their feedback and comments on the database. These as well as further questions on the GID Database can be directed to DEV.contact@oecd.org.