

SDMX Global Conference 2009: Towards building an SDMX community

Lars Thygesen, OECD



Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange

What better way to launch 2009 than with a highly successful conference on ways to support statistical processes by using SDMX standards and guidelines within mainstream technology? This was the opinion of more than 240 experts from 65 countries and nearly 20 international organisations who joined together on 19-21 January 2009 to make this conference, hosted by the OECD, happen.

Participants expressed a common theme: now is the time to advance efforts to create a global SDMX community. To foster broader collaboration in an ever-widening range of institutional implementations and subject-matter domains the web is seen as the vital tool.

All presentations and a list of participants are available via the SDMX website or directly from the special conference website at www.oecd.org/std/sdmxconference2009.

A bird's eye view of the Conference plenary and capacity-building sessions

Conference topics focused attention on practical experiences, tools and further opportunities for exchanging data and metadata (details about data). Through more than 40 presentations over three days, participants communicated and demonstrated how SDMX standards and guidelines support more effective statistical processes within and between institutions as well as for users of statistics.

Important contributions particularly touched on the use of SDMX for web dissemination and for internal production systems. Significant SDMX developments around the world included a number of national and international organisations: Brazil, Mexico, Philippines, United States, Italy, Portugal, and for the UN Millennium Goal Indicators.

The scheduled upgrade or redesign of a system is seen as a very opportune time to implement SDMX without large additional cost. Overall countries didn't see the implementation of SDMX as necessarily an additional cost, particularly when any upgrade also incorporated the use of available technology platforms which support SDMX standards.

In this Issue

Page

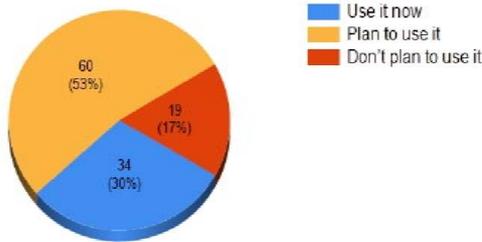
Features:

<i>SDMX Global Conference</i>	1
New Balance of Payments Manual	3
Measuring Entrepreneurship: a Digest of Indicators The OECD-Eurostat Entrepreneurship Indicators Program	5
News in Brief	7
Recent Publications	7
Statistics Meetings	10

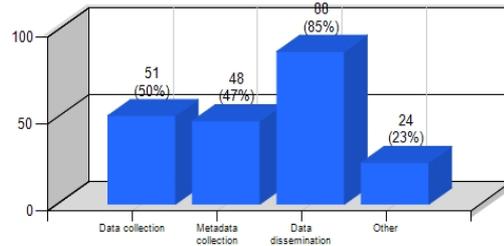
Please send articles for the May issue of the Statistics Newsletter to
STD.STATNEWS@oecd.org
by
20th April 2009

Some findings from the 2009 Survey about SDMX (involving responses from more than 110 institutions)

Does your organization use SDMX in its current work, or plan to use it in the immediate future (next 12 months)?
(113 Responses)



Please indicate whether your implementation (s) are directed towards (more than one category is possible).
(103 Responses)



In many cases, decision-makers at statistical institutions are not necessarily SDMX technical experts. The supply of non-technical materials for these senior managers at the statistical institutions would be seen as very valuable in obtaining support for the use of SDMX. In addition this should be combined with the provision of additional capacity-building around the world

Nearly 200 participants attended the special third day of the conference that had been arranged for capacity-building, with two-thirds at the technical standards session and one-third at the content-oriented guidelines session. Some key points of the conference plenary and capacity-building sessions are outlined below.

Conference Plenary

Experiences and lessons learned

Significant progress is being made through implementations in a number of subject-matter domains. Developments involving SDMX are multi-disciplinary and require teamwork across a variety of skills (e.g. statistical, technical

and managerial). The contribution of those with statistical knowledge is central to making the most out of the use of the SDMX framework of standards and guidelines.

Statistical processes and SDMX

Examination of an "end-to-end" approach to using SDMX shows potential for significantly enhancing SDMX's contribution to greater efficiency in internal statistical processes and dissemination. Possible fine-tuning or new requirements for SDMX Technical Standards may emerge based on recent implementation experiences.

Perspectives on metadata

Metadata registries are being implemented and have further potential with metadata management for census data exchange and dissemination showing promise.

SDMX Survey and Panel

Results of a questionnaire answered by more than 100 institutions shows 85 percent of respondents use or plan (within

the coming year) to use SDMX standards and guidelines. All institutions considered SDMX would be useful for their organisations, with close to 70 per cent indicating it as very or extremely useful.

The Panel discussion brought together perspectives from sponsoring institutions, countries and vendors. It appears that investment in SDMX by vendors is likely to increase as institutions more widely use SDMX standards and guidelines around the world. Creating an active SDMX community, including a user forum or help desk and additional user-friendly training materials, was seen as critical in the months ahead. Members of the Panel also saw benefits from clarifying SDMX conformance principles, particularly for tools developments and for potential sharing of application (open source) code. Steady growth in implementation is expected to benefit from ensuring that annexes based on SDMX standards and guidelines accompany the release of newly upgraded or revised statistical methodologies, in particular,

providing detailed information about SDMX-conformant data and metadata structure definitions.

Capacity-Building

SDMX Overview Session - Plenary Session

The key message is that SDMX is not essentially about technology. The business case is built on greater efficiency through the use of metadata. The recent long-awaited release of the SDMX Content-Oriented Guidelines (2009) strengthens the SDMX framework provided by the SDMX Technical Standards (Version 2). A new User Guide is now available on the SDMX website.

SDMX Technical Standards - Separate Track

Development of web-oriented implementations, particularly involving visualisation techniques, are supported by a growing number of tools relying on the SDMX framework.

SDMX Content-Oriented Guidelines - Separate Track

The SDMX Content-Oriented Guidelines (2009) and domain activities are advancing. Experts are keen to be made aware of, and contribute to, continuing developments.

About SDMX

The Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) initiative fosters the development and use of technical standards and content-oriented guidelines for greater efficiency in the exchange, sharing and dissemination of data and metadata using mainstream technology as well as in production processes involving internal statistical systems.

**DD4D – Data
Designed for
Decisions**
Enhancing social,
economic and
environmental progress

**A joint IIID and OECD
conference**

**Paris,
18-20 June 2009**

A conference for intermediaries between data, knowledge and empowerment.

Speakers from 20 countries investigate selection, visualisation, interpretation and communication of data.

- Bringing personal meaning and relevance to statistics.
- Sharing tools to access and understand data.
- Finding stories in data and communicating them.
- Helping people understand complex issues.
- Graphic representation and decision-making.
- Visualising progress and development.

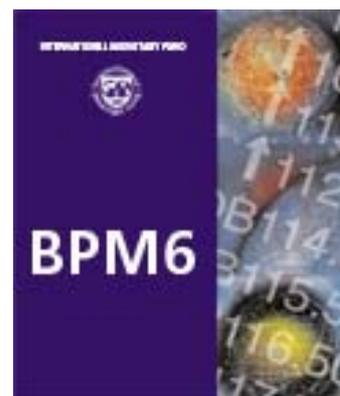
For more information, visit:
<http://dd4d.net/>

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has approved SDMX Technical Standards as Technical Specification 17369. SDMX regularly reports on its activities

to the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (about 25 international organisations), which have adopted SDMX for data exchange and sharing, and the UN Statistical Commission, which last year recognised SDMX as the preferred standard for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata and encouraged further implementations by national and international statistical organisations.

New Balance of Payments Manual

Robert Dippelsman, IMF



The *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6)* has been updated to take account of three main economic developments—globalization; the increased emphasis on balance sheet issues; and financial innovation. *BPM6* was adopted at the November 2008 meeting of the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics (Committee), and a pre-publication draft is available at:

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/bop/2007/bopman6.htm>

The draft is subject only to editing. The final hard copy edition is expected to be available late in 2009 or early in 2010. *BPM6* will be translated into

Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish.

Major changes introduced in BPM6

Among the most significant changes made in moving from BPM5 to BPM6 are:

- revised treatment of goods for processing and merchanting;
- elaboration of direct investment consistent with the new *OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment*, notably the redefining of direct investment in terms of control and influence, treatment of chains of investment and fellow enterprises, and presentation on a gross asset/liability basis as well as according to the directional principle; and
- strengthened concordance with the *SNA*, such as on financial services and full articulation of the *SNA / Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual* instrument classification.

Implementation plans

A considerable part of the IMF Statistics Department and Committee's work program will be taken up with the task of implementing BPM6. The work program largely draws from the successful implementation of BPM5 in 1993–1995 and includes the following elements:

- provision of written material for balance of payments compilers, especially the *Balance of Payments Compilation Guide (Compilation Guide)* and the *Balance of Payments Textbook (Textbook)*;
- providing assistance to balance of payments

compilers in the form of training and seminars;

- a questionnaire to be sent to countries in the first half of 2009 inquiring into their implementation strategies and identifying topics for which special support is needed;
- distribution of papers on national experiences in implementing BPM6;
- development of a conversion matrix, linking balance of payments and international investment position (IIP) items of BPM5 and BPM6, and explaining any differences in the content of related items so as to facilitate conversion to the new *Manual*;
- IMF courses and seminars held in headquarters and regional training centers have been converted to a BPM6 basis and include sessions on revision issues; and
- the changeover of the presentation of data in the IMF's *Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook* and the *International Financial Statistics* according to BPM6. Provisionally, 2012 (for 2011 data) has been set as the date for the conversion in these publications, based on input from compilers.

We are pleased to note that many economies have already begun improving and updating their source data to be consistent with the new methodological standards and updated basis of presenting data. We urge all economies who have not already done so to begin planning for the implementation of the new standards, to facilitate their adoption. Just as the revision was conducted in coordination with related standards for national accounts and direct investment, implementation at the economy level will also be coordinated.

More details on the update and its implementation can be found in the following papers:

Adoption of BPM6: Report by the IMF (BOPCOM-08/03)

BPM6 Implementation Plan, and Plans for Preparing a Compilation Guide: Report by the IMF (BOPCOM-08/10A)

These are available on the Committee website:

<http://www.imf.org/external/bopage/bopindex.htm>

Harmonization with other manuals

The update of the *Balance of Payments Manual* was conducted in parallel with the update of the *System of National Accounts (SNA)* to maintain consistency. The update was also conducted in parallel with the production of the fourth edition of the *OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment*. In addition, the update takes into account improved recording and methodological treatments contained in other manuals prepared by the Statistics Department, including *External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users* (2003), *Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual* (2000), and *Government Finance Statistics Manual* (2001). In turn, these manuals will be revised to reflect the revisions made in BPM6 and SNA.

Interested in working for the OECD?

To subscribe to our email alert service announcing new job vacancies, please register at: www.oecd.org/hrm/vacancies

Measuring entrepreneurship: a digest of indicators
The OECD-Eurostat Entrepreneurship Indicators Program
Koen De Backer, OECD



Over the past ten years, the OECD has addressed entrepreneurship issues in various studies and reports. While these studies compiled data relevant to support specific research or policy tasks, no effort was made to establish an ongoing database of entrepreneurship indicators across OECD countries.

In 2006 the OECD launched the Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme (EIP) with the financial support of the Kauffman Foundation. In 2007, Eurostat joined forces with the OECD to create a joint OECD-Eurostat EIP.

The EIP establishes multiple measures of internationally comparable data and indicators on entrepreneurial activity, based on information produced by national statistical offices according to internationally agreed definitions. Policy-makers can now view their countries' entrepreneurial performance, and compare it with other countries.

The digest presents the results of the first round of empirical data collected under the EIP. Initial findings now published cover 15

European countries, the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Other countries are expected to join the programme over the coming months.

The results show that in 2005 the number of new businesses as a proportion of all companies, the "birth rate", was highest in Eastern European countries. These new EU countries underwent structural changes in their economies and consequently saw significant entrepreneurial activity.

The business birth rate is found to be on average 4 to 5 percent higher in the services sector than in the manufacturing sector. Closure rates are also higher in services, reflecting the higher entry and exit costs for manufacturing companies. Even in 2005, a year of relatively robust economic growth, a large number of new firms failed to survive their first year.

The report also analyses high growth firms. It finds a large share of new businesses have difficulties achieving higher growth than after their first year. At less than 2 percent of all companies, the number of young firms with fast-growing turnover (known as "gazelle" firms), nevertheless remains small in the countries surveyed.

Measuring Entrepreneurship: A Digest of Indicators can be downloaded from OECD's website:
www.oecd.org/statistics/entrepreneurshipindicators.

For more information about the OECD-Eurostat Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme, please contact Koen De Backer in OECD's Statistics Directorate (tel: +33 1 4524 7661; e-mail: koen.debacker@oecd.org).

The Fifth UNWTO International Conference on Tourism Statistics

Tourism: An Engine for Employment Creation

Bali, Indonesia
30 March-2 April 2009

UNWTO's International Conferences on Tourism Statistics (Ottawa 1990, Nice 1999, Vancouver 2001, and Iguazu 2005) have been significant milestones in the definition of tourism statistics international standards.

The Bali Conference will offer the first ever global focus on employment as a key challenge for National Tourism Administrations and the tourism industries will address the measurement and quality of employment in the sector.

Ministerial sessions include: (i) employment policy issues in tourism, (ii) employment and decent work in tourism as a tool for poverty alleviation, (iii) UNWTO guidelines for fostering employment and decent work and (iv) ILO employment and decent work tool-kit and its application to tourism.

Further details:
<http://www.unwto.org/bali.php?lang=E>

Seminar on "Innovative Approaches to Turn Statistics into Knowledge" 15-16 July 2009, Washington D.C.

Venue

The seminar is hosted by the [US Census Bureau](#) and is arranged jointly by the Census Bureau, the [OECD](#) and the [World Bank](#). It will be held on 15-16 July 2009 in the headquarters of the US Census Bureau, located in Suitland, Maryland, just outside of Washington DC.

Purpose

The purpose of the seminar is to contribute to the development of tools to help people transform statistics into knowledge and decisions. A first condition for statistics to be used this way is that relevant statistics become known, available, and understood by wider audiences.

The seminar is held in the context of the OECD [Global Project on "Measuring the Progress of Societies"](#). It should contribute to one of the goals quoted in the Istanbul Declaration: "produce a broader, shared, public understanding of changing conditions, while highlighting areas of significant change or inadequate knowledge".

Format

It will be a two-day seminar in plenum, with no parallel sessions. There will be around 20 presentations and discussants will be allocated to the sessions. A few panels may be organised. The conference will be video recorded, allowing other interested parties to watch it later on the seminar website.

Participation in the seminar

For more information, please visit www.oecd.org/progress/ict/statknowledge. The event can accommodate a maximum of 350 participants. Application for participation should be made using the *Participation application form* on the seminar website. **Deadline 15 April 2009.** The Organising Committee will review applications for participation with a view to obtaining a balanced audience and will then send confirmations. There is no participation fee.

Making a presentation

If you wish to make a presentation, please send an application with the information necessary to evaluate your proposal, using the *Presentation proposal form* at www.oecd.org/progress/ict/statknowledge. The deadline for proposals is also **15 April 2009**. The Organising Committee will review all proposed presentations and contact the proposers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Towards Harmonised Bilateral Trade Data for Inter-Country Input-Output Analyses: Statistical Issues (STI working paper 2009/4)

Understanding the increasingly complex structures of international trade is an important concern for policy makers, as deepening economic integration is characterised by the growing trade in intermediate goods and services between countries. Analyses based on international input-output tables can help address trade-related policy issues as well as providing other insights into the socio-economic and environmental impacts of globalisation. To link national input-output tables in order to carry out interdependent analyses across countries requires a consistent set of harmonised international bilateral trade data that ideally reflects recent output by the economic activities in question. This paper discusses the challenges faced when attempting to construct appropriate bilateral trade matrices using annual data collected by the OECD and United Nations, as well as national sources. While the main focus is on the increasing presence of “re-exports” in reported exports of goods data, this paper also addresses some other statistical and data issues that need to be considered, such as treatment of confidential (or “unallocated”) trade in goods; trade in second-hand goods, scrap metal and other waste; differences in trade statistics across international statistical agencies; and the additional problems encountered when converting product-based trade data to industry-based classifications. Issues concerning Balance of Payments data, the main source for trade in services, are also addressed.

The full working paper can be accessed at: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/2/48/42264754.pdf>

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

All OECD publications can be ordered on line at:

www.oecd.org/bookshop

▲ OECD Journal: Financial Market Trends, n° 95 Volume 2008/2

Two articles concerning the financial assets of specific institutional sectors of the economy have recently been published in this publication:

- Households' Wealth Composition Across OECD Countries and Financial Risks Borne by Households:
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/53/48/42143434.pdf>

This article is mainly based on two OECD databases, the “*Financial Balance Sheets*”, which belongs to the System of National Accounts (SNA 1993) and the

“*Households' Financial and Non-financial Assets*”, which introduces a finer classification through the decomposition of two financial assets defined in the SNA 1993. The first section of the article, based on data stored in both databases, presents a combined analysis of households' financial and non-financial balance sheets across OECD countries over the period 1995-2006. Its scope mainly covers households' gross wealth (financial, dwellings and land) and therefore does not include debt. The second section, based on the OECD households' financial and non-financial assets database, analyses financial risks borne by households investing their savings either in investment fund shares, in life insurance reserves or in pension schemes, and how these allocations have changed and developed over time in various OECD countries. It focuses on the evolution of the share of each financial asset within the households' financial balance sheet over the period 1995-2006. It describes and characterises the behaviour and preferences of the households. The last section deals with non-financial assets and their importance in the global wealth of OECD households.

- Recent Trends in Institutional Investors Statistics
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/53/49/42143444.pdf>

The dataset “Institutional Investors Statistics”, integrated in the framework of the OECD Financial Accounts, contains data collected from Central Banks and National Statistical Offices and published by the OECD on its website. It allows measuring and analyzing the role of institutional investors in capital markets. This article presents, in tables and graphs, an overview of institutional investors' assets, general trends across OECD countries over the period 1995-2007 as well as details of the composition of institutional investors' portfolio and their development, by country. It also provides information on the weight of assets issued by non-residents and on the relative importance of non-financial assets held by institutional investors.

▲ Economic Policy Reforms 2009, Going for Growth

Going for Growth 2009 highlights the most appropriate structural reforms to pursue to improve performance, takes stock of recent progress in implementing structural policy reforms and identifies five policy priorities for each OECD country that could lift economic growth in the long run. It calls for reforms in a number of areas in order to strengthen labour productivity and employment, including reforms to education systems, product market regulation, agricultural policies, tax and benefit systems, health care and labour market policies. In addition, this issue contains four analytical chapters covering taxation and economic growth, reform of product market regulation, infrastructure investment and the effect of population structure on employment and productivity.

▲ OECD Patent Statistics Manual

This 2009 edition of the OECD Patent Statistics Manual takes stock of the recent developments in the field. It provides guiding principles for the use of patent data in the context of S&T measurement, and recommendations for the compilation and interpretation of patent indicators in this context. It aims to show what patent statistics can and cannot be used for, and how to count patents in order to maximise information on S&T activities while minimising statistical noise and biases. Finally, it describes how patent data can be used in the analysis of a wide array of topics related to technical change and patenting activity including industry-science linkages, patenting strategies by companies, internationalisation of research, and indicators on the value of patents.

▲ OECD International Development Statistics 2009

This CD-ROM provides economists and researchers with a unique source of up-to-date comparative statistics and information on international development. Time series cover: volume, origin and types of aid and other resource flows to over 150 recipient countries; individual aid commitments by sector type, donors, and recipient, with textual and numerical information on projects; key development indicators; and numerous Aid charts for DAC members, recipient countries/territories and regions. This edition includes the following databases: the DAC/GEO (Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Aid Recipients, 1960-2007); the CRS (Creditor Reporting System, 1973-2007) and DCR/STATS (Statistical Annex of the 2008 Development Cooperation Report) databases; Aid at a Glance, including Aid Charts for DAC Members, recipient countries/territories and regions; and detailed documentation for each database.

OUT SOON

▲ OECD Factbook 2009 Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics



OECD Factbook 2009 is the fifth edition of a comprehensive and dynamic statistical annual from the OECD. More than 100 indicators cover a wide range of

areas: economy, agriculture, education, energy, environment, foreign aid, health and quality of life, industry, information and communications, population/labour force, trade and investment, taxation, public expenditure and R&D. This year, the OECD Factbook features a focus chapter on inequality. Data are provided for all OECD member countries with area totals, and in some cases, for selected non-member economies. For each indicator, there is a two-page spread. A text page includes a short introduction followed by a detailed definition of the indicator, comments on comparability of the data, an assessment of long-term trends related to the indicator, and a list of references for further information on the indicator. The next page contains a table and a graph providing - at a glance - the key message conveyed by the data. A dynamic link (StatLink) is provided for each table directing the user to a web page where the corresponding data are available in Excel® format. OECD Factbook 2009 is a key reference tool for everyone working on economic and policy issues.

▲ National Accounts of OECD Countries, Volumes IIIa and IIIb, Financial Accounts – Flows and Financial Balance Sheets – Stocks, 1996-2007, 2008 Edition

The 2008 edition of *Financial Accounts - Flows and Financial Balance Sheets - Stocks* (Volumes IIIa and IIIb in the series of National Accounts of OECD Countries) is an annual publication, dedicated to financial flows and stocks. Data are based on internationally agreed concepts and definitions according to the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA93). *Financial Accounts*, which belong to the Accumulation Accounts, include, by type of instruments, the financial transactions of OECD countries (both net acquisition of financial assets and incurrence of liabilities), between institutional sectors. *Financial Balance Sheets*, which correspond to the final set of information in the full sequence of the accounts describing the economic cycle, include the stocks of financial assets and liabilities held by the institutional sectors, and give a picture of their net worth, at the end of the accounting period. Both volumes cover 29 of the 30 OECD countries and contain brief country notes. The paper version of these two volumes III present data relating to the main institutional sectors of the economy - *Non-financial corporations* (S11), *Financial corporations* (S12), *General government* (S13), *Central Government* (S1311), *Households and Non-profit institutions serving households - NPISH* (S14-S15), *Total economy* (S1) and *Rest of the World* (S2) - from 1996 onwards (when available in the country) while the electronic versions contain all available data (from 1970 onwards, for all sectors; from 1950 for the United States). Data are expressed in national currency (in euros for euro area countries).

▲ OECD Regions at a Glance 2009

Well over one-third of the total economic output of OECD countries was generated by just 10% of OECD regions in 2005. This means the performance of regional economies and the effectiveness of regional policy matter more than ever. OECD Regions at a Glance is the one-stop guide for understanding regional competitiveness and performance, providing comparative statistical information at the sub-national level, graphs and maps. It identifies new ways that regions can increase their capacity to exploit local factors, mobilise resources and link with other regions. Measuring such factors as education levels, employment opportunities and intensity of knowledge-based activities, this publication offers a statistical snapshot of how life is lived – and can be improved – from region to region in the OECD area. This third edition provides the latest comparable data and trends across regions in OECD countries, including a special focus on the spatial dimension for innovation. It relies on the OECD Regional database, the most comprehensive set of statistics at the sub-national level on demography, economic and labour market performance, education, healthcare, environmental outputs and knowledge-based activities comparable among the OECD countries.

▲ Governing Regional Development Policy, The Use of Performance Indicators

This report examines both the challenges and the opportunities associated with designing and using indicator systems as a tool for the governance of regional development policy. It draws on the experiences of a number of OECD countries and provides an in-depth look at the cases of Italy, the United Kingdom (England), the United States and the European Union. It builds on previous OECD work on the governance of regional development policy by extending lessons about contractual relations among levels of government to performance indicator systems.

▲ Society at a Glance 2009, OECD Social Indicators

Society at a Glance offers a concise quantitative overview of social trends and policies across the OECD. This 2009 edition includes a wide range of information on social issues – such as demography and family characteristics, employment and unemployment, poverty and inequality, social and health care expenditure, and work and life satisfaction – as well as a guide to help readers understand the structure of OECD social indicators. In addition to updating some of the indicators from previous editions, Society at a Glance 2009 adds several new and innovative social indicators, including adult height, perceived health status, risky youth behaviour and bullying. For the first time, the report also provides a condensed set of headline social indicators summarising social well-being in OECD countries.

Training Course... Statistics, Knowledge and Policy

Ottawa, Canada: 11-15 May 2009

The OECD, in association with the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL), has developed a 5-day training course on "Statistics, Knowledge and Policy: Understanding Societal Change". The course has been designed for individuals who want to understand the progress of their societies and promote evidence-based debate and policy making. It is being run as a part of the Global Project on "Measuring the Progress of Societies". Space is limited to 25 applicants and participants will be selected according to their role and experience in order to achieve a good balance for peer-to-peer learning. If you are interested please email barbara.iasiello@oecd.org, attaching a CV - or phone +33 (0)1 45 24 94 36. We will let you know as quickly as possible whether your application has been accepted. The registration fee is 2,000 Euros and includes: accommodation (4 nights); the training course and material, breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks (4 days). Participants will need to be able to cover their own travel expenses. The deadline for registration is, 11 April 2009. For more information you can visit our website at www.oecd.org/progress/training

The **Statistics Newsletter** is published by the **Statistics Directorate of the OECD**

Editor in chief: Enrico Giovannini

Editor: David Brackfield

Editorial assistant: Julie Branco-Marinho

Technical advice and assistance: Sonia Primot

Distribution: Martine Breton

For further information contact:

The Editor, The Statistics Newsletter, email: STD.STATNEWS@oecd.org

Readers are invited to send their articles or comments to the above email address

Deadline for articles for the next issue:
20 April 2009

Contributors to this issue:

Lars Thygesen, OECD/STD; Mr. Robert Dippelsman, IMF; Koen De Backer, OECD/STD.

Forthcoming OECD Meetings

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

2009	
23-24 March	8th Meeting of the International Safety Data and Analysis Group (IRTAD), Joint OECD/ITF Transport Research Committee , Paris France
25 March	Working Group on International Investment Statistics (WGIIS), Investment Committee, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs (DAF), Paris, France
26-27 March	Joint meeting of the Working Group on International Investment Statistics and the Special Session on Globalisation, Investment Committee, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs (DAF), Paris France
23-24 April	Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS), Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (STI), Paris, France.
04-06 May	Working Party on Indicators of Educational Systems (INES), Directorate for Education (EDU), Paris, France
05-06 May	DAC Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT), Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD), Paris, France
26-28 May	Working Party No. 2 on Tax Policy Analysis and Tax Statistics, Centre for Tax Policy and Administration (CTP), Paris, France
03-05 June	Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators (NESTI), Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (STI), Paris, France.
04-05 June	Experts Meeting on Health Care Quality Indicators, Health Committee, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (ELS), Paris, France.
10-11 June	Committee on Statistics (CSTAT), Statistics Directorate (STD), Geneva, Switzerland

Other Statistics Meetings

2009	
31 March-03 April	UNSD/ECLAC Workshop for Developing Countries on the Revision of the Recommendations for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS), Bogotá, Colombia http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/workshops_imts.htm
04-06 May	Joint UNSD/UNECE Meeting on Environment Indicators, Chisinau, Moldova (http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.05.environ.htm)
11-13 May	Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on the Impact of Globalisation on National Accounts, Geneva, Switzerland (http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.05.sna.htm)
18-20 May	Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems, Oslo, Norway http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.05.ms.is.htm
8-10 June	57th plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians, Geneva, Switzerland http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.06.ces.htm