The Statistics Newsletter

for the extended OECD Statistical Network

Five Steps toward Better Data on International Migration

Michael Clemens, Center for Global Development

Managing globalization requires a clear vision of global linkages. But we have an enormous blind spot: our patchy statistics on international migration. Many countries do not collect, do not publish, or do not standardize detailed data on migrants. The strange result is that today it is much easier to systematically measure global movements of wheat and toilet plungers than it is to measure global movements of people.

Migration will shape global development in this century, interacting with current and future economic crises, epochal demographic shifts, large and growing international wage gaps, increasingly global economic systems, and climate change. All of these mean that people will be on the move in numbers and ways we have not seen before, and small changes in labor mobility may have large effects on global economic development. But policy has little chance of responding appropriately if the most basic facts of international migration remain in question.

International meetings of experts have been pointing out these deficiencies since the 1890s, with only limited progress. In the 21st century we can no longer wait for the slow evolution of institutions that will provide the best data. That is why the Center for Global Development, in partnership with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, convened a blue-ribbon commission last year to tackle this issue.

The commission was co-chaired by Patricia Santo Tomas, a former cabinet minister of the Philippines and current chairwoman of the board at the Development Bank of the Philippines, and Lawrence Summers, a professor at Harvard University at the time he co-chaired. The commission brought together a small, stellar group of some of the world's top experts on migration data—including OECD Chief Statistician Enrico Giovaninni, and other experts from the United Nations, World Bank, International Organization for Migration, Eurostat, and academia. The group was asked to name five ways to improve international migration data in the short term, within existing institutions, at the lowest cost. Each commissioner served in a personal capacity, not as a representative of their organizations, and their final report reflects the broad consensus of personal opinion in the group rather than any institutional position of their employers. This allowed them to speak freely and frankly as individual experts.

Their five ideas are the best and most concrete plan in the world to deliver better migration data in the next few years. The first recommendation is particularly simple, clear, and resounding: Every country's census should ask about each person's country of birth, country of citizenship, and country of previous residence. Even in the current 2010 census round, many important countries still do not even ask each person's country of birth – including Japan, Mexico, Korea, the Philippines, and Egypt. Roughly a third of countries.

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Countries, international organizations, and the research community can significantly improve international migration data in the short run—with existing institutions and at low cost—by implementing five recommendations:

1.   Ask three basic questions on every population census—about country of citizenship, country of birth, and country of previous residence—then publish cross-tabulations of this information by age and sex.

2.   Exploit existing administrative data sources that often contain rich and poorly utilized information on international movements.

3.   Compile existing data from the Labour Force Surveys of countries around the world into a single, harmonized, frequently updated database.

4.   Provide public access to anonymous individual records of international migrants from surveys and administrative data to allow major improvements in the quality of research while maintaining strict confidentiality.

5.   Increase the systematic use of standardized modules of migration-related questions in ongoing household survey programs, particularly those in developing countries.

Source: Commission on International Migration Data for Development Research and Policy (2009), Migrants Count: Five Steps Toward Better Migration Data (Washington, DC: Center for Global Development). Available at www.migrationdata.org

do not ask in the census about previous residence in another country. In following this and other recommendations by the Commission, countries have the opportunity to greatly improve migration data at low cost and without any brand new surveys, offices, or initiatives. Inter-national agencies such as the UN, OECD, and World Bank can and should support national governments in creating this global good, and this report spells out exactly how.

The other recommendations suggest ways to compile and release data that governments already collect but that are often not easily accessible, and ways that existing household surveys in developing countries can help us learn more about migration at low cost (see box). At every stage the commission makes it clear exactly who should execute each step. One recommendation proposes that the OECD compile and house

a database of existing Labour Force Surveys from around the world and the Organization is already working to do that. Implementation of all of the Commission's recommendations will require international collaboration and national support.

If the crisis has taught us anything, it is that we cannot address issues of international migration in the global economy on the basis of inadequate data. We cannot build a stronger world economy for our children without better information about one of the significant forces that will shape that economy. There is much that national governments and international agencies can do. The time for perfect migration data is still far off, but the time for better migration data is now.

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Building Synergies between Official Statistics and Private Source Data
Vincenzo Spiezia, OECD

WPIIS (Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society) has agreed to set up an experts group to explore potential synergies between official statistics and private source data, particularly in the measurement of Internet Traffic Flows (ITF). All activities over the Internet generate traffic flows data that can be analysed and processed to produce statistics. Instead of asking households and business what they do on the Internet, their activities can be measured through the analysis of ITF.

While ITF-based statistics have a number of advantages – in terms of timeliness, coverage and burden – they raise important issues as regards their statistical quality, the privacy and security of Internet users, and the cooperation with Internet Service Providers (ISPs). These issues, briefly discussed in this article are based on a document available on request.

Introduction

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are generating enormous flows of information at an unprecedented pace. Statistical information is no exception to this trend. ICT have

reduced the complexity and the costs of the collection, storage and treatment of survey data. Furthermore, Internet Traffic Flows (ITF) provide a complementary source of data on ICT access and use. As a result of this trend, a large wealth of private source data coexists today with the more established set of official statistics.

Private source data are mainly produced by private businesses for commercial purposes: targeting potential customers, attracting investments in publicity, marketing online services, etc. In recent times, however, these data have been increasingly used as "statistics" to inform the economic and policy debate. The main reason for the "public" use of private source data is that they cover measurement fields that are relevant for policies but are not sufficiently covered by official statistics. Another key reason is that statistics based on private data source tend to be produced more quickly than official statistics. The public use of private source data, however, raises the question of whether data originally produced for commercial purposes may be a suitable substitute or complement to official statistics.

The use of unreliable data to inform economic and policy decisions may have disruptive consequences. The over-optimistic expectations on the growth of telecomm and e-commerce, which led to the Dot.Com bubble and the subsequent recession in the early 2000s, were fed by the over-optimistic market projections based on private source data. In fact, the WPIIS's work on the definition of statistical standards for the measurement of ICT was spurred by the policy demand for more reliable statistics. And the official statistical systems in OECD countries have proved to be able to meet this demand.

Internet Traffic Flows

Internet Traffic Flows provide a complementary source of data on ICT access and use. All activities over the Internet generate traffic flows data that can be analysed and processed to produce statistics.

ITF are generated by the exchanges between many users and many suppliers of content. The connection between users and content is supplied by Internet Service Providers (ISPs), so that these companies are in the best position to access and analyse ITF data. Measurements of ITF can also be carried out by Data Centres (DC), because almost every professional company active on the web houses its equipment in a DC.

Most applications on ITF measurement are primarily focused on network management and security. As a side effect, however, they produce very interesting data with a potential use for statistical purposes. A familiar example of traffic monitoring is a firewall, a piece of embedded software able to inspect and block traffic. The first generation of firewalls analysed data traffic by looking at the packet headers; current applications are far more advanced and are able to look into the actual data.

Using ITF to directly gather data on Internet use has five major advantages:

• ITF-based statistics can be produced more quickly than survey-based statistics.
• ITF-based statistics are quicker in tracking changes in ICT use.
• ITF-based statistics permit to collect information about issues that are not properly understood or observed by the user, e.g. occurrence of a virus attack, type and intensity of

interactions over Internet networks, etc.
• Internet users have to grant their authorisation to access ITF data that they generate but they do not need to fill out any questionnaire.
• The automated collection of data has relatively lower costs as compared to surveys.

TF-based statistics also have a number of important drawbacks:

• It is unclear to what extent ITF data provide a representative sample of all ITF.
• A practical obstacle is related to network access. In order to collect ITF data, some equipment has to be installed directly on the network.
• The analysis of ITF raises important privacy issues. Inspecting passing-by traffic goes against the basic principles of free Internet.
• A final concern is related to costs. Both development and operational costs are likely to be significantly high.

ITF data pose a challenge to the national and international statistical system. On the one hand, there is a policy demand for statistical information that cannot be produced by the official statistical system, either because of limited resources – to carry out additional surveys – or limited access to data – in the case of ITF. On the other, private source data could contribute to fulfil this demand but they do not seem to meet the quality standards that are the trademark of official statistics.

The challenge can be then formulated in the following terms: is it possible to develop a statistical system, based on the synergies between private source data and official statistics, and able to produce statistics with the high level of quality necessary to

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Speakers

Invited and confirmed speakers include: Alicia Bárcena Ibarra (United Nations Executive Secretary of ECLAC), Angel Gurría (Secretary General, OECD), Noeleen Heyzer (Executive Secretary of UNESCAP), Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (President of Liberia), Donald Kaberuka (President of the African Development Bank), Geoff Mulgan (Director, Young Foundation), Sergey Stepashin (Chairman of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation), and Joseph Stiglitz (Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences).

Nurimaru APEC Housean annex to BEXCO (Busan Exhibition & Convention Center) where the 3rd World Forum will be held

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The Exhibition at the 3rd OECD World Forum will include new technologies for visualising statistics, initiatives to measure and foster quality of life at local and national levels and eco-friendly green technology and with a particular focus on promoting green growth and social cohesion. More information is available on the website: www.oecdworldforum2009.org and online registrations will be available from June. In the meantime, however, you may request more information by contacting the Exhibition Secretariat: oecdexhibit@ioconvex.com

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inform economic and policy decisions?

The system of public utilities in place in most OECD countries seems to provide a valuable model to deal with this question. Public utilities refer to services provided under market conditions but according to a set of standards set by the public regulation. Typical examples of public utilities are electricity, natural gas, water, sewage, telephone, etc. In the case of water, for example, the public interest is that all citizens have access to quality water. Public regulators, therefore, set standards about the conditions of the provision of water but the service is offered by a company, either private or public, under market conditions.

Statistics can be regarded as a type of public utility: they are necessary to define and implement policies, which have an impact on the welfare of citizens. As such, there is a public interest in having reliable statistics. And this is the rational behind the establishment of official statistics.

In the same way as public utilities do not need to be provided by public companies to ensure high quality of the service, statistics do not have to be produced by NSOs in order to be reliable. All that is needed to ensure statistical quality is a set of statistical standards that apply to all statistics, no matter whether they are produced by private companies or NSOs.

For this model to be viable a number of important issues have to be discussed and solved among all stakeholders.

• The analysis of ITF does not have to impinge on the privacy and security of users and ISPs. Therefore, a suitable regulatory framework has to be defined and implemented.
• A statistical quality framework for ITF-based statistics has to be defined. Basic statistical concepts like sampling become challenging when applied to the Internet.
• A viable economic model needs to be developed.

Although ISPs already generate statistics based on ITF data, the implementation of statistical standards may involve significant costs. This model can be economically sustainable only if is supported by a sufficient level of public finance and if it generates a sufficient stream of market revenues.

This challenging set of issues should be examined by an expert group representing all stakeholders. Based on its role and expertise, the OECD seems the right place to host this experimental process. In particular, the expert group could include members from:

National stakeholders:
• Major ISPs and DC who are willing to engage in this reflection;
• NSOs from OECD countries;
• Internet regulators.

International stakeholders:
• The Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC);
• Civil society and the Internet technical community;
• The WPIIS and the OECD Committee on Statistics (CSTAT);
• The OECD Working Party on Information Security and Privacy (WPISP);
• EUROSTAT.

Survey data

ICT have reduced the complexity and the costs of the collection, storage and statistical treatment of survey data. A number of medium-scale surveys that could only be carried out by NSOs in the past are now feasible for small private companies. The fact that both private companies and NSOs are able to produce survey-based statistics does not necessarily imply that the statistical quality of these data is the same. A number of issues – from the sample size and design, the technique of

interview and the statistical treatment of the row data – contribute to determine the statistical quality and, ultimately, the reliability of survey-based statistics.

National (NSOs) and international (UNSD, OECD and EUROSTAT) statistical institutions have issued detailed technical guides on the steps to follow in the different phases of a survey. For instance, the business and household ICT model surveys by the OECD and EUROSTAT set up a number of criteria for the collection and analysis of survey data. While these guidelines are, to a different degree, binding for official statistics, they do not apply to private source data.

The basic reason why private source data do not necessarily follow these guidelines is that they involve significant costs. Statistical quality, however, may also have a monetary return if the compliance of statistical standards provides private data producers with an advantage over their competitors. This implies that there may be a commercial incentive for a private company to apply statistical quality standards if these can be used as part of its marketing strategy.

For a large number of products, this type of incentive has led to the creation of some form of "quality label", e.g.: concerning the environmental impact, bio-food, security etc. The "quality label" can be based on either self-certification or formal certification. Either type of certification can be voluntary or compulsory.

Applied to statistical data, self-certification would take the form of a quality "check list" of the statistical features of the data produced. When releasing a new set of data, data producers would simply fill out all or part of the check list, stating that the data produced respect a predefined set of statistical standards. NSOs, at the national level, and the OECD-EUROSTAT, at the international one, could help to define this quality check list.

Formal certification would require that a data producer submit the methodology used for a specific data set to a statistical body, which could decide whether to grant a quality label or not. The source of legitimacy of such a body would be an issue if formal certification is compulsory. If certification is voluntary, the legitimacy of this body would be based on the choice of data producers to seek for its certification.

Whether the model of "statistical quality label" would be feasible and effective and under what conditions is an issue that should be examined by an expert group representing all stakeholders. Based on its role and expertise, the *OECD seems the right place to host this experimental process.*

Query Wizard for International Development Statistics
Yasmin Ahmad and Marc Tocatlian, OECD

QWIDS provides easy access to statistics on aid flows. It is an intuitive system and designed to enable a novice user to easily navigate the system, query and extract the data. Users do not need to know about the structure of the underlying databases to use the tool. The database structure is based on the seven different tables on aggregated aid flows by members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and individual aid activities stored on the Creditor Reporting System (CRS). The system is **intelligent** enough to find the best source of data for each request. QWIDS extracts data dynamically from OECD.Stat (using web services) which is the repository for all International Development Statistics (IDS).

A thorough analysis of IDS users was conducted and several typical user profiles (personas) were created from this exercise. To learn more about the personas see: http://www.designstamp.com/downloads/DesignStamp_PersonaProcess.pdf. During the entire development process, system functionalities were tested against the personas to ensure that the application focused on providing core data that would respond to more than 90% of users' needs.

QWIDS was built as a generic tool so that other OECD.Stat datasets could potentially benefit from this development. OECD's Information Technology and Network (ITN) Department cooperated actively in this development to help ensure QWIDS would fit within the OECD's IT infrastructure.

QWIDS contains all the features provided by OECD.Stat (e.g. metadata, bookmarking query results, pivot table functionalities, export to CSV function, etc.) and in addition provides a **full text search** on the descriptive data of the CRS. Most individual datasets provided in OECD.Stat can be viewed in QWIDS and bulk downloads are available for users who wish to export all the data to another platform.

QWIDS went live in November 2008. Since then feedback has been extremely positive with growing usage of this new resource.

Users are presented with six core dimensions by which to query data on aid flow statistics: Donor, Recipient, Flow, Flow Type, Sector and Time (as shown on the next page).

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QWIDS
Query Wizard for
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What type of Aid data are you looking for?   See All Datasets

Hide Data Selection ≫

Donor(s)	Recipient(s)	Flow(s)	Flow Type(s)	Sector(s)	Time Period
DAC Countries	All Recipients, Total	ODA	Disbursement	All Sectors, Total	6 Selected

Donor(s):
- ☐ All Donors, Total
- ☑ DAC Countries
- ☐ Non-DAC Countries
- ☐ Multilateral Agencies

Browse Donors

Enter Donor:

Recipient(s):
- ☑ All Recipients, Total

Browse Recipients

Enter Recipient:

Flow(s):
- ☑ ODA ⓘ
- ☐ OOF ⓘ
- ☐ Private ⓘ
- ☐ Total Flows (ODA+OOF+Private)
- ☐ Total Official Flows Net (ODA+OOF)

Flow Type(s):
- ☑ Disbursement ⓘ
- ☐ Commitment ⓘ

Sector(s):
- ☑ All Sectors, Total

Browse Broad Sector Categories

Browse Detailed Sector Codes

Time Period:
- ☐ Most recent year only (2008)

2003 ▼ to 2008 ⓘ ▼

Browse Time Period

Reset All Selections   ☐ Show project-level data and/or detailed sector level data (CRS) ⓘ

Show Additional Data Selection Options ≫

Display the Data

To query data, users simply need to select the variables within each dimension which are of interest to them.

Further detailed variables and dimensions relative to a user's specific query are available under **Show Additional Data Selection Options.**

What type of Aid data are you looking for?   See All Datasets

Hide Data Selection ≫

Donor(s)	Recipient(s)	Flow(s)	Flow Type(s)	Sector(s)	Time Period
DAC Countries	All Recipients, Total	ODA	Disbursement	All Sectors, Total	6 Selected

Donor(s):
- ☐ All Donors, Total
- ☑ DAC Countries
- ☐ Non-DAC Countries
- ☐ Multilateral Agencies

Browse Donors

Enter Donor:

Recipient(s):
- ☑ All Recipients, Total

Browse Recipients

Enter Recipient:

Flow(s):
- ☑ ODA ⓘ
- ☐ OOF ⓘ
- ☐ Private ⓘ
- ☐ Total Flows (ODA+OOF+Private)
- ☐ Total Official Flows Net (ODA+OOF)

Flow Type(s):
- ☑ Disbursement ⓘ
- ☐ Commitment ⓘ

Sector(s):
- ☑ All Sectors, Total

Browse Broad Sector Categories

Browse Detailed Sector Codes

Time Period:
- ☐ Most recent year only (2008)

2003 ▼ to 2008 ⓘ ▼

Browse Time Period

Reset All Selections   ☐ Show project-level data and/or detailed sector level data (CRS) ⓘ

Hide Additional Data Selection Options ≫

Flow Details:	Flow Type Details:	Amount:
No Selection	No Selection	Current Prices (USD millions)

Flow Details:
- ☐ ODA Grouping
  - ☐ ODA % GNI ⓘ
  - ☐ Bilateral ODA, Total
  - ☐ Bilateral ODA Grouping
  - ☐ Multilateral ODA, Total
  - ☐ Multilateral ODA, Grouping
  - ☐ Memo(bil+mul): HIPC Initiative
  - ☐ Memo(bil+mul): IDA Debt Reduction Facility
  - ☐ OOF Grouping

Flow Type Details:
- ☐ Disbursement Grouping
  - ☐ Gross Disbursement ⓘ

Amount:
- ☑ Current Prices (USD millions)
- ☐ Constant Prices (2007 USD millions)
- ☐ National currency (millions)

Activity level information can be accessed by selecting either **detailed sector codes**, or by clicking on the box at the bottom of the query pane **Show project level data**.

When data results are returned based on a query that searches for activity level information, the values in the results table are hyperlinked. By clicking on one of these cells a new window opens showing the full details of all the aid activities that make up that aggregate.

CRS Microdata

Search Aid Activities [Search]   [CSV] Export As CSV   Print Data

Data Displayed:

Donor(s): DAC Countries Recipient(s): Nepal Sector(s): All Sectors, Total Flow(s): ODA Flow Type(s): Disbursement Time Period: 2007 Amount: Current Prices (USD millions) Type of Aid: All Types

Year△	Donor Name△	Agency Name△	Recipient Name△	Flow Name△	Short Description△	Disbursements USD million△	Disbursements USD million Constant△	Purpose Code△	Purpose Na
2007	Japan	MOFA	Nepal	ODA Grants	ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES OF EMERGENCY-AFFECTED CHILDREN AND WOMEN	1.3815	1.3815	12220	BASIC HEA CARE
2007	Japan	MOFA	Nepal	ODA Grants	MEDICAL SERVICES	0.3725	0.3725	12191	MEDICAL S
2007	Japan	MOFA	Nepal	ODA Grants	TC AGGREGATED ACTIVITIES	0.0007	0.0007	11110	EDUCATIO POLICY & MANAGEME
2007	Japan	JICA	Nepal	ODA Grants	TC AGGREGATED ACTIVITIES	0.1840	0.1840	14020	WATER SU SANIT. - L SYST.
2007	Japan	JICA	Nepal	ODA Grants	TC AGGREGATED ACTIVITIES	0.1234	0.1234	14020	WATER SU SANIT. - L SYST.
2007	Japan	JICA	Nepal	ODA Grants	TC AGGREGATED ACTIVITIES	0.1017	0.1017	14040	RIVER DEVELOPM
2007	Austria	Reg	Nepal	ODA Grants	PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF COMPUTER TOMOGRAPH FOR DHULIKHEL HOSPITAL	0.0205	0.0205	12191	MEDICAL S
2007	Austria	ADA	Nepal	ODA Grants	ECO-HIMAL CO-FINANCING PROJECT: RESTORATION OF ITUM BAHA BUDDHIST CENTRE	0.0028	0.0028	16061	CULTURE . RECREATI
2007	Austria	ADA	Nepal	ODA Grants	NGO-CONFINANCE POGR.: BUILDING AND INCOME CREATING MEASURES FOR WOMEN	0.0019	0.0019	16020	EMPLOYME POLICY AN ADMIN. M
2007	Austria	ADA	Nepal	ODA Grants	TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING, FINAL PHASE	0.0851	0.0851	33210	TOURISM AND ADMI MANAGEME

Page 1 of 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 > Last >>   Go To Page: [   ]

Total Results: 975

For more information about IDS online and QWIDS, please visit: www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline

The OECD project leaders for QWIDS development were Yasmin Ahmad (on the substantive side) and Marc Tocatlian (on the process and technical side).

The Present, Challenges and Future of China's Statistical System

Ma Jiantang, Commissioner of National Bureau of Statistics of China

The Chinese government pays keen attention to statistical work and all social circles are greatly concerned with its development because statistics hold an important position in the country's administration and evidence-based decision-making and play an essential role in China's socialist modernization construction.

Currently, China is in a new era of building a well-off society and accelerating socialist modernization on a comprehensive basis with the scientific development view being implemented throughout the country. The Chinese government makes a point of promoting sound and rapid economic and social development, putting forth newer and higher requirements for China's statistical system and posing significant challenges for statistical work.

Statistical demands grow in a diversified and complicated manner

With China's rapid economic growth and the accelerating economic globalization, it has become more difficult for the Chinese economy to maintain stable and healthy development and macro regulation calls for more comprehensive and more accurate statistical data. China's economic system is going through a profound reform, with in-depth movements in social structure, drastic adjustments in interest patterns, and sweeping changes in ideological thinking; a great amount of statistical data on social environment resources is needed to manage social affairs in a scientific manner and to build a harmonious society.

Although China has built a socialist market economy system, some of the contents and indicators of statistical surveys in the planned economy period shall be retained for the time being to promote China's development, thus showing dual features in China's statistical demands. Chinese governments at various levels are all heavily burdened with economic and social management functions, requiring a lot of regional statistical data. Businesses, research institutions and the general public have become more aware of and

voluntary in using the statistical information disseminated by the government than ever before. With the Chinese economy already integrated into the world economy, there are increasing demands of the international community and overseas investors for the statistical information of China, which has resulted in the fact that China's statistical demands are not only diversified and complicated but are also becoming increasingly difficult to meet.

Changes in economic and social environments add to the difficulty of the statistical survey

Competent departments in charge of industries, governments at primary levels and state-owned enterprises have changed a lot in terms of statistical strength and method from the planned economy period while the statistical survey channels and data gathering system adapted to the socialist market economy have not been fully established. Deepening reform and opening up and rapid development of the economy and society have resulted in increasingly diver-sified economic subjects, accelerating population migra-tion, expanding scale of survey targets, complicated structure and frequent changes. These survey targets have become more aware of protecting their privacy and trade secrecy and have become less willing to assist and cooperate with statistical surveys, adding to the difficulty of organizing statistical surveys and meeting statistical demands.

Various constraints exist and the statistical service cannot fully adapt to and meet the needs of the state's scientific development, statistical indicators cannot timely provide accurate evidence for macro regulation, government governance, business operation and the general public's participation in economic and

social activities, sampling surveys are restricted by local governments for the need of statistical information, the application of administrative recordings in statistical work remains inadequate, and information technologies and statistical regulations cannot fully meet the development of statistical work. Therefore, China's statistical departments shall continuously innovate and perfect the statistical system in order to adapt to the needs of socialist market economy and the state's scientific development.

Future development of China's statistical system

The important thing is that the Chinese government attaches keen attention to statistical innovation and development. It is specified in the Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Some Issues concerning the Improvement of the Socialist Market Economy passed by the Third Plenary Session of the 16th CPC Central Committee that efforts shall be made to enhance the statistical system and perfect the monitoring system on economic performance. Premier Wen Jiabao has repeatedly made a point of deepening the reform of the statistical system, perfecting statistical systems and measures and ensuring the authenticity of statistical data. In his inspection of the National Bureau of Statistics of China at the beginning of the year, Vice Premier Li Keqiang stressed that efforts shall be made to recognize the important role played by statistics in economic and social development to improve the quality and proficiency of statistical work on a comprehensive basis.

The National Bureau of Statistics of China has preliminarily prescribed the objectives of the statistical system reform and development: thoroughly

implement the scientific development view, set up a modern statistical system of sound structure, scientific survey system, leading technologies, effective legal guarantee and qualified team, aimed at improving the scientific development of statistical service, centred on enhancing the quality of statistical data, boosted by reform and innovation and supported by information technologies for the purpose of providing highly efficient statistical services of excellent quality.

This will be achieved through:

- Setting up a statistical data quality control system of full coverage, solid foundation, standard procedures and specified responsibilities.
- Carrying out statistical work oriented toward improving the quality of statistical data.
- Strengthening statistical construction at primary levels.
- Setting up an all-process data quality control system covering statistical design and data gathering, review, transfer, processing, management, assessment and dissemination.

Reaching all these objectives requires several actions. Setting up a statistical survey system of sound standards, complete lists, perfect indicators and scientific methodology can be implemented through: enhancing the statistical standard system, enhancing the name lists of basic organizations through the use of administrative recordings, setting up a scientific, unified and concise statistical indicator system, setting up a scientific and efficient statistical survey methodology system, enhancing periodical census system through adding the relevant indicators that reflect residents' housing conditions to accurately reflect the aggregate amount and structure of population and houses as the

basis for the sampling survey targeted at natural persons and, finally, perfecting the regular statistical survey system.

Setting up a statistical management system of sound legality, complete institutions, specified duties and effective coordination will be achieved by enhancing statistical laws and regulations, strengthening the state's centralized leadership of statistical work, strengthening and enhancing the statistical work in local areas, strengthening and enhancing the statistical work of various sectors and bringing into play the function of non-governmental statistical surveys.

Setting up an information supported statistical system of sound network, consistent procedures, efficient operation and great convenience will be achieved by enhancing the infrastructures construction of information based statistical work, setting up a unified statistical database system throughout China, setting up a unified software platform for the gathering of statistical data throughout China and strengthening the application of modern information technologies in statistical work.

Finally, setting up a statistical service system of reliable information, rich content, diversified approaches and great convenience will be achieved by enhancing the statistical data dissemination system, expanding the channels of statistical services and acting as a good assistant to the governments at various levels.

Reform and development of China's statistics is at an important stage. The development of China's social economy required to speed up the reform requires the development of China's statistics for solving the ceaseless new situations and problems. The demands in statistics are increasing in China,

which need the continuing support from international organisations not only for accelerating the development of China's statistics, but also for the contribution on the development of global statistics.

This article is an extract based on the paper 'The Present, Challenges and Future of China's Statistical System' presented at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Committee on Statistics, First session 4-6 February 2009, Bangkok".

Information Economy Product Definitions based on the Central Product Classification (version 2)
Vincenzo Spiezia, OECD

Introduction

Product classifications are used by statistical offices and others for a number of measurement purposes. These include measurement of product usage, current and capital expenditure on products, domestic production, and trade in goods and services. They are therefore an important element of a set of statistical standards, with Information Economy (IE) standards no exception.

This summary article (the full paper can be found here: http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/16/46/42978297.pdf) presents the definition of information economy (IE) products developed by the WPIIS Classifications Expert Group. The product definitions complement the IE sector definitions that were released in early 2007. The latter are based on the 2007 revision of the UNSD's International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev. 4).

The article includes two main features of the IE product definitions, ICT products and Content and media products. Each definition is a subset of the Central Product Classification (Version 2) developed by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD).

Brief history

The first statistical standard produced by the WPIIS was an industry-based definition of the ICT sector. It was released in 1998 and revised slightly in 2002, following the release of ISIC Rev. 3.1.

It was not until 2003 that the first product definition appeared. It was for ICT goods and was based on the 2002 version of the Harmonized System (HS) used for trade statistics. Discussion about an ICT services definition started around the same time and resulted in the release of a definition in 2007, based on a draft version of the CPC Ver. 2.

Discussion about the definition of a "content" sector and its products began in 1998 but was not resolved until the recognition by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and ISIC (Rev. 4) of "information" and related industries as a major industrial sector. More information on the history and concepts underlying development of the IE sector and product definitions can be found in the OECD Guide to Measuring the Information Society.

With the details of the revisions of the ISIC and CPC becoming clearer, the revision and development of industry and product definitions were a major focus of the May 2006 WPIIS meeting.

Delegates at the 2006 meeting of the WPIIS gave a mandate to a group of volunteer experts to resolve outstanding issues and

finalise a proposal for the sectoral and ICT goods definitions. The 2007 meeting of the WPIIS received an update on progress of the definitions work and endorsed continued work on the product definitions.

The group of volunteers became the Classifications Expert Group chaired by Daniel April (Canada), vice chair of WPIIS. The members were: Marc Aufrant (France), Yves Froidevaux (Switzerland), Troels Burchall Henningsen (Denmark), Jeong-Eon Kim (Korea), Martin Mana (OECD), Ron McKenzie (New Zealand), John Burns Murphy (United States), Lea Parjo (Finland), Sheridan Roberts and Sid De (Australia). In its deliberations, the group considered comments received from WPIIS delegates and Eurostat. The latter submitted its conclusion based on deliberations of its Working Group on ICT sector statistics and on a wide consultation of European countries.

Guiding principles

In respect of the principles used to determine the products lists, the assumption was made that products of the IE sector should be included, and that products that are not output of the IE sector should be excluded, unless there is a compelling case for their exclusion/inclusion respectively.

Members of the expert group were amenable to taking a majority approach to reach agreement. A product was included where a strong majority view prevailed, irrespective of the corresponding industry. Where the majority was not so clear, other considerations were taken into account.

ICT products

The main features of the ICT product definition can be summarised as follows:

- All but four products that are products of one or more ICT manufacturing industries (and have no links to non-ICT industries) are included in the proposed ICT products list. The exclusions have strong majority support and are electrical capacitors, resistors and their parts.

- Two goods that are not products of an ICT manufacturing industry have been included based on strong majority support and/or consistency with other inclusions. They are Digital cameras and Other recording media, including matrices and masters for the production of disks.

- Some changes have been made to the ICT services definition that was released in 2007. They arise mainly through changes to the CPC and further developments in splitting ICT services and content.

- All of the products of ICT services industries are in either the ICT services or the Content and media products list.

- Several ICT services were included in the Content and media products list because the expert group considered that they are more similar to content than ICT. Details can be found in the discussion of Content and media products in Annex 3.

- A small number of services that are not output of ICT industries are included in the ICT products list. They are: three Leasing or rental services products, Business process management services, Engineering services for telecommunications and broadcasting projects and two Installation services products.

- The ICT product definition does not have a specific goods/services split (though,

for trade statistics purposes, it is clear which products are goods).

The broad level categories and the number of CPC sub-classes in each are shown in Table 1 below. There are 10 broad categories and 99 products.

Content and media products

The main features of the Content and media products definition can be summarised as follows:

- All but two of the products of the Content and media sector are included in the list. The first exception has strong majority support from the expert group and is Unused postage, revenue or similar stamps; stamp-impressed paper; cheque forms; banknotes, stock, share or bond certificates and similar documents of title. A late addition to products of the content sector is the product Postage or revenue stamps, stamp-postmarks, first-day covers, postal stationery (stamped paper) and the like; collections and collectors' pieces of zoological, botanical, mineralogical, anatomical, historical, ethnographic or numismatic interest; antiques. This was also excluded following consultation with the expert group.

- Four products of the ICT sector are included in the Content and media products list, with the strong agreement of expert group members. They are: the three games software products (38582, 47822 and 84391) of ISIC class 5820 (Software publishing) and the Web portals industry product, Web search portal content.

- Four products that are not from the Content and media

Table 1. Broad level categories proposed for ICT products

Broad level categories	Number of CPC sub-classes (products)
Computers and peripheral equipment	19
Communication equipment	8
Consumer electronic equipment	11
Miscellaneous ICT components and goods	14
Manufacturing services for ICT equipment	5
Business and productivity software and licensing services	11
Information technology consultancy and services	10
Telecommunications services	12
Leasing or rental services for ICT equipment	3
Other ICT services	6
Total	99

Table 2. Broad level categories proposed for Content and media products

Broad level categories	Number of CPC sub-classes (products)
Printed and other text-based content on physical media, and related services	19
Motion picture, video, television and radio content, and related services	24
Music content and related services	5
Games software	3
On-line content and related services	12
Other content and related services	11
Total	74

(nor ICT) sector are included in the Content and media products list based on majority support and consistency arguments. They are: Full service advertising and Purchase or sale of advertising space or time, on commission (both products of 7310, Advertising), Advertising and related photography services, which is a product of 7420 (Photographic activities) and Original works of authors, composers and other artists except performing artists, painters and sculptors (a

product of 9000, Creative arts and entertainment activities).

There are 74 Content and media products in the list and six broad level categories as shown in Table 2 above.

Implementation

It is likely to be several years before the collection and publishing of statistics on the basis of the CPC Ver. 2 (or national equivalents) is widespread. Therefore, the product definitions will have limited applicability for some time, with the exception of their use for trade statistics. A

correspondence between the goods component of the ICT product definition and the 2007 HS is expected to be prepared shortly, thus providing countries with a revised classification for measuring trade in ICT goods.

Recommendation

The Committee for Information, Computer and Communications Policy recommends that the OECD forwards the proposal to the UNSD for inclusion as an "alternative view" aggregation in the CPC Ver. 2.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Newsletter of the International Input-Output Association (IIOA)

In this sixth issue (accessible at www.iioa.org) you will discover more about Wassily Leontief and the VIII Leontief Annual Conference held in St Petersbourg (Russia); an interesting editorial on Input-Output Tables and the System of National Accounts as an integrate part of statistical and analytical tools; the PyIO software developed by the Regional Economics Applications Laboratory for input-output analysis; an advance of the upcoming ESR papers, highlights of I-O related papers in international journals, upcoming conferences and many more.

Input for forthcoming editions is very welcome and contributors are invited to contact José M. Rueda-Cantuche, the newsletter editor at newsletter@iioa.org

Second International Workshop on Economic Census, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 6-9 July 2009

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in collaboration with Korea National Statistical Office (KNSO) is organizing the Second International Workshop on Economic Census.

The workshop aims to provide a discussion forum for country representatives and international experts to share and document their experiences in economic census and its role in addressing the challenges faced by the National Statistical Offices in measuring the constantly changing economies.

It is a follow up event to the First International Workshop on Economic Census, jointly organized by UNSD and the National Bureau of Statistics of China in 2005, which evaluated the potential of the economic census for production of high quality and policy relevant economic statistics and concluded that it serves as the cornerstone for the economic statistics infrastructure of many countries.

Further information can be located at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/economic_stat/Economic_Census/2ndIWEconomicCensus.htm

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

All OECD publications can be ordered on line at: www.oecd.org/bookshop

▲How Regions Grow, Trends and Analysis

Regional differences within OECD countries are often greater than those between countries and much inequality remains. This report explores what generates growth at the regional level. Based on in-depth econometric modelling and analyses, this report reframes the debate on regional policy and development, emphasising that opportunities for growth exist in all regions.

▲Insurance Statistics Yearbook 2009 on CD-ROM

This annual publication provides major official insurance statistics for all OECD countries. The reader will find information on the diverse activities of this industry and on international insurance market trends. The data, which are standardised as far as possible, are broken down under numerous sub-headings, and a series of indicators makes the characteristics of the national markets more readily comprehensible.

▲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. In addition, a special chapter examines leisure time across the OECD.

OUT SOON

▲Trends in the Transport Sector 2009

This publication presents the most up-to-date statistics on transport markets in International Transport Forum countries for the period 1970-2007, including charts to highlight the major trends. Published earlier than comparable studies, this handy pocket-sized booklet provides the reader with first-hand figures on key transport trends. Data are also provided on air and maritime transport as well as on investment and maintenance expenditures undertaken in the transport sector.

▲ OECD Communications Outlook 2009

The OECD Communications Outlook 2009 presents the most recent comparable data on the performance of the communication sector in OECD countries and on their policy frameworks. The data provided in this report map the eight years of competition for many OECD countries that fully opened their market to competition in 1998. The 2009 edition analyses the communications sector over the years following the "dot com bubble" crisis and explores future developments.

Forthcoming OECD Meetings

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

2009	
18-20 June, am	Conference on Statistics; Data Designed for Decisions: Visualizing social, economic and environmental progress, Paris, France, http://dd4d.net/
23-24 June	OECD Forum 2009, "The Crisis and Beyond: for a stronger, cleaner, fairer economy", Paris, France, www.OECD.org/Forum2009
15-16 July	Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Turn Statistics into Knowledge, Washington D.C., United States, www.oecd.org/progress/ict/statknowledge
23-24 July	Measuring Subjective Well-being: An Opportunity for National Statistical Offices? Statistics Directorate (STD), Florence, Italy
10-11 September	OECD Short Term Economic Statistics Expert Group (STESEG), Statistics Directorate (STD), Paris, France
16-17 September	4th IRTAD Conference (International Safety Data and Analysis Group) Joint OECD/ITF Transport Research Committee, Seoul, Korea
23-24 September	First Meeting of the UNECE/EUROSTAT/OECD Task Force on Measuring Sustainable Development, Geneva, Switzerland

Other Statistics Meetings

2009	
24-26 June	Fourth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA), UNHQ, New York, United States
5 October	Workshop on Business Registers and their Role in Business Statistics in the Eastern UNECE region, Luxembourg
14-16 October	UNECE/ILO/Eurostat Meeting on Measurement of Quality of Employment
28-30 October	Joint UNECE/Eurostat Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses, Geneva, Switzerland.