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news items

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APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Guy BERTAUD, Director responsible for "Statistical Methods and Data processing" was elected last December, at the session held in New Delhi, to full membership of the International Institute of Statistics.

- - - -

Mr. Niels AHRENDT has been appointed Assistant to the Director-General of the Statistical Office with effect from 1st February 1978.

SURVEY ON THE STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

On 19th December 1977 the Council decided to have a survey carried out in the member states on the structure of agricultural holdings (Regulation (EEC) n° 218/78. This survey will take place during the period from 1st April 1979 to 15th June 1980 and is within the framework of the FAO's recommendations for a world agricultural census.

Further details of this survey will be given in a forthcoming issue of "EUROSTAT NEWS".

SECTORAL INCOME INDEX 1977:

Forecasting of relative change in the value added
of agriculture per person employed in 1977

1. Introduction

In a recent report ¹⁾ the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) publishes estimates of the relative change between 1976 and 1977 in the value added (total factor income) of agriculture in the individual Member States and in the Community as a whole. The Member States and the SOEC were encouraged to do this after observing that, in spite of all the difficulties encountered, the exercise carried out jointly for the first time in 1976, had produced satisfactory results and despite the fact that the drought in summer 1976 created special forecasting problems.

The following methodological points should be borne in mind when considering the information contained in the report:

- The results cover the relative change in gross value added at factor cost in agriculture per worker in the calendar year 1977 as compared with the previous year. Each calendar year, of course, comprises elements of two crop years.
- The estimates were made by the Member States or by experts in the Member States on the basis of a common methodology. The data represent joint estimations with no specified margin of error.

1) See "General Note" on page 14

- The estimates have been drawn up within the methodological framework of the Economic Accounts for Agriculture which form part of the European System of Integrated Economic Accounts (ESA). Complete harmonization of data has not yet been achieved however. In principle the results cover the production branch 'Products of agriculture and hunting', and not the activity sector 'Agriculture', which may be taken in very general terms to be the total of economic activities of agricultural holdings.

- The gross value added at factor cost in the production branch 'Agriculture' is computed as follows:

Final production
- intermediate consumption
= gross value added at market prices
+ subsidies
- taxes linked to production
= gross value added at factor cost

Gross value added at factor cost in agriculture comprises the total of factor incomes in the agricultural production branch and fixed capital depreciation (= the amount of fixed capital used up as a result of normal wear and tear and obsolescence).

- Gross value added at factor cost in agriculture is not an indicator for the total household income of farmers. It should be recalled that in addition to their purely agricultural income in the strict sense, agricultural holdings or households may also receive incomes from other sources. The figures on the relative change in gross value added at factor cost in agriculture per worker do, however, give an important indication of changes in the purely agricultural income of farmers.

- The average rates of change for agricultural gross value added for the individual Member States and for the Community as a whole give no indication of the differences between regions and types of farm within the Member States.
- No comparison in absolute terms of gross value added at factor cost per worker can be made at the present time, principally because labour statistics have not yet been harmonized. Information can, however, be supplied on changes in relative terms - albeit with certain reservations.
- The data on the relative change in real terms of gross value added at factor cost per worker were obtained by deflating the corresponding nominal rates of change by the implicit GDP deflator. The values for this price index were supplied by Directorate-General II of the Commission of the European Communities. The real rates of change contained in the report do not, therefore, represent the results of a computation in volume terms.

2. Summary of results

For 1977 the value added ¹⁾ of agriculture ²⁾ in the Community is expected to show a smaller increase than in 1976, a year which was initially regarded as poor but which subsequently proved rather better than expected. According to the Member States' estimates, an increase in the value added of agriculture of some + 7% in nominal terms is to be expected in 1977, compared with about + 11% in 1976. Taking account of the average rate of price increase in the Community (rate of inflation) ³⁾ of + 9.1% in 1977, the value added of agriculture in the Community is expected to show a decline of nearly - 2% in real terms, whereas there was no change in real terms in the previous year.

1) Gross value added at factor cost

2) Production branch 'Products of agriculture and hunting'

3) Implicit price index of Gross Domestic Product at market prices

Table 1: Estimated rates of change in the gross value added at factor cost of agriculture in 1977 (%)

Country and date of last estimate	Total		Per capita	
	nominal	real	nominal	real
D (12. 1.78)	- 5.9	- 9.1	- 4.8	- 8.0
F (26.10.77)	+ 13.1	+ 3.8	+ 18.4	+ 8.6
I (15.11.77)	+ 14.9	- 3.0	+ 15.5	- 2.5
NL (18.11.77)	+ 0.1	- 6.1	+ 1.1	- 5.2
B (28.12.77)	- 3.6	- 10.4	+ 0.4	- 6.7
L (24.11.77)	+ 7.4	+ 0.9	+ 9.5	+ 2.8
UK (Nov. 77) ^{a)}	+ 13	- 1.0	+ 14	± 0
IRL (19. 1.78) ^{b)}	+ 33.5	+ 18.0	+ 37.5	+ 21.5
DK (6. 1.78)	+ 17.9	+ 8.2	+ 20.9	+ 10.9
EUR-9	+ 7.3	- 1.7	+ 9.7	+ 0.5

a) Rounded to the nearest whole percent

b) Rounded to the nearest half percent

Since it is estimated that, as in previous years, there was a further reduction in the number of agricultural workers (estimate for 1977: - 1.9%), the picture is somewhat brighter in the case of per capita value added. Thus, in 1977, compared with the previous year, the Community average per capita gross value added at factor cost is expected to show an increase of almost + 10% in nominal terms and to remain almost the same in real terms (+ 0.5%).

These figures indicate the effect of the reduction in the number of agricultural workers, and therefore of the structural change in agriculture, on the evolution of the per capita value added of agriculture. However, the average rate of exodus of workers from agriculture in the Community has slowed appreciably in the last three years, falling from - 3.8% in 1975 to - 1.9% in 1977. This trend was influenced first and foremost by a lower rate of economic growth and the consequent diminished attraction of non-agricultural sectors of the economy for agricultural workers.

Table 2: Rates of change in the real per capita gross value added at factor cost of agriculture (%)

COUNTRY	75 : 74	76 : 75	77 : 76	3-year average
D	+ 8.9	+ 3.2	- 3.0	+ 1.4
F	- 6.0	+ 3.0	+ 8.6	+ 1.9
I	+ 8.4	- 0.5	- 2.5	+ 1.8
NL	+ 6.2	+ 6.1	- 5.2	+ 2.4
B	+ 5.3	+ 3.6	- 6.7	+ 0.7
L	+ 9.6	- 1.2	+ 2.8	+ 3.7
UK	- 2.7	+ 5.4	0 ¹⁾	+ 0.9
IRL	+ 16.8	- 0.2	+ 21.5 ²⁾	+ 12.7
DK	- 2.4	+ 6.7	+ 10.9	+ 5.1
EUR-9	+ 2.6 ³⁾	+ 2.6 ³⁾	+ 0.5 ³⁾	+ 2.0 ³⁾

1) Rounded to the nearest whole percent

2) Rounded to the nearest half percent

3) Weighted by using Member States' corresponding percentage share (in the previous year or years) of the gross value added at factor cost of agriculture in the Community

Because of special features in individual years, for which neither the farmers themselves nor the makers of agricultural policy can be held responsible (e.g. the effects of periods of drought), it is advisable to take account of average trends in value added over several years in the presentation and analysis of the results. Taking the average of the last three calendar years (1975-1977) the per capita gross value added at factor cost of agriculture has increased by almost + 14% in nominal terms and + 2% in real terms (cf. Table 2). This result is clearly more favourable than the result for 1977.

A comparison of the rates of change in real per capita gross value added at factor cost reveals - as in previous years - considerable differences between the various Member States in 1977. Increases in real terms are expected for Ireland (+ 21.5%), Denmark (+ 10.9%), France (+ 8.6%) and Luxembourg (+ 2.8%). With an increase of over 20% Ireland is well outside the range of the real rates of change for the other countries. The reasons for this exceptional increase are firstly, the increases in the volume of final crop and animal production (31 and 7% respectively), and secondly, producer prices, which rose sharply in the case of animal products in particular (+ 24%). This increase in real per capita gross value added at factor cost in Ireland must, however, be considered against the background of a stagnation in real terms in 1976. In the United Kingdom real per capita gross value added at factor cost is expected to show no change in 1977. In the other Member States a decrease in real terms is forecast, ranging from - 2.5% for Italy to - 5.2% for the Netherlands, - 6.7% for Belgium and - 8.0% for the Federal Republic of Germany.

In a final assessment of the rates of change in real per capita gross value added at factor cost, which in 1977 - as shown above - is in five Member States expected either to stagnate or in some cases to show a marked decrease, account must also be taken of the fact that in most Member States individual years offset one another. Thus, Table 2 shows that the three-year average of the rates of change from 1975-1977 is positive in all the Member States.

Methodological note:

The real rates of change in the value added of the Community were calculated as a weighted average of the nine national real rates of change. The weighting factors used are the following percentage shares of the gross value added at factor cost of Community agriculture in 1976 (at current prices):

D : 19.9%	NL : 7.2%	UK : 9.6%
F : 28.8%	B : 3.4%	IRL : 2.1%
I : 25.0%	L : 0.1%	DK : 3.8%

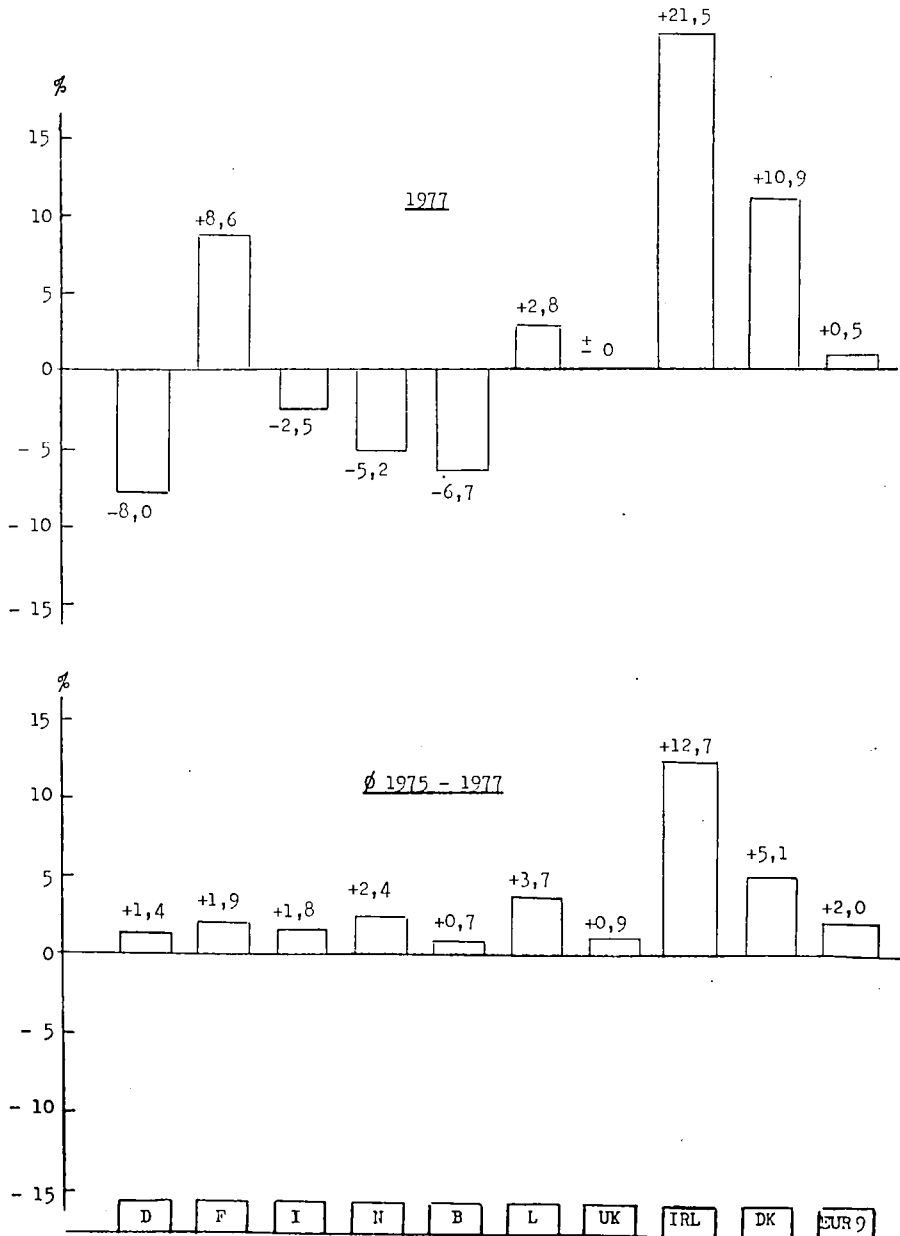
The nominal rates of change for the Community were calculated by inflating the real rates of change.

General note

Details of the changes in 1977 (compared with 1976) for all countries, and for the separate components of gross value added at factor cost (i.e. final production of crops, animals and animal products plus subsidies less intermediate consumption and taxes linked to production) are given in the full report (reference D/SX/34) which is available on demand.*

* Mr. PFAEHLER, Tel. 2985 or Mrs. BARBARINI, Tel. 2986

Anticipated relative change in real gross value added at factor cost
in agriculture per person employed





publications

SUMMARY

Published :

Special publications and series :

Input-Output Tables 1970, Vol. 1-5	24
Structure of earnings in wholesale and retail distribution, banking and insurance in 1974, Vol. 1-4	26
Confidentiality and business statistics in the EC (DE, EN, FR, DK, IT)	23

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To be published shortly :

Prices of fruit, vegetables and potatoes	20
Overall energy balance sheet 1963-1976	22

ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS

Purple series : National accounts - ESA - Aggregates - 1960-1976

Price : UKL 4
DKR 42,50
USD 7
BFR 250

116 pages

Format A 4

Editions EN/FR/NL, DA/DE/IT published in January 1978

Results of the principal aggregates of the national accounts drawn up according to ESA (European System of Integrated Economic Accounts). Seventeen years of development and comparison between the Community as a whole (EUR-9), the nine Member States, the United States and Japan. The data are expressed in monetary units (Eur and national currencies), in indices and in growth rates.

Green series : Yearbook of agricultural statistics

ISBN 92-825-0018-7

Price : UKL 5
DKR 51
USD 8
BFR 300

276 pages

Format C 5

Multilingual edition published in January 1978

This book is a kind of statistical vademecum containing the most important items published in "agricultural statistics". This publication is subdivided in 6 parts :

General
Agricultural and forestry accounts
Structure
Production
Supply balance sheet
Prices and price indexes.

Prices of fruit, vegetables and potatoes

ISBN 92-825-0081-0

Price : UKL 3.20
DKR 34
USD 5.60
BFR 200

Approximately 125 pages Format A 4

Multilingual edition to be published in February 1978

This edition is bringing up to date the prices published together with their descriptions in the special issue "Agricultural prices - Fruit, vegetables and potatoes" S 8/1973. The new edition contains the definite prices of fruit, vegetables and potatoes for 1975 and provisional figures for 1976.

Ruby series : Gas statistics

Price : UKL 1.60
 DKR 17
 USD 2.80
 BFR 100

54 pages

Format A 4

Bilingual edition EN/FR published in December 1977

The publication "Gas statistics 1976" provides balance sheets and tables relative to the gas industry following an established harmonized methodology. It embraces the different combustible gases : natural gas, coke oven gas, blast furnace and works gas. The figures are not simply limited to the year 1976. In certain cases the values for 1970 and 1975 are given in order to indicate the short term trends.

A series of tables with the structural data as well as an analysis of the transformations in gas works are also included in the brochure.

Electrical energy statistics

Price : UKL 3.20
 DKR 34
 USD 5.60
 BFR 200

112 pages

Format A 4

Bilingual edition EN/FR published in December 1977

This publication furnishes detailed harmonised and preponderantly definite data concerning the electrical economy during the past calendar year. It gives the specialist additional information and a rapid updating of time series published in the yearbook Energy.

It is composed of five parts : characteristical data - summarized balance-sheets - production - transformation in the power stations - consumption - electrical power plant.

Petroleum statistics

Price : UKL 1.60
DKR 17
USD 2.80
BFR 100

76 pages Format A 4

Edition EN/FR published in January 1978

This publication supplies the harmonized data for the petroleum industry during the course of the past year. It contains for the specialist complementary data and a rapid up date of the historical series published in the Energy Statistics Yearbooks. It covers the different petroleum products, presenting for each of them the various energy flows. A series of tables on the structure of the petroleum industry equipment is also included in this brochure.

Overall energy balance-sheets 1963-1976

ISBN 92-825-0123-X

Price : UKL 3.20
DKR 34
USD 5.60
BFR 200

Approximately 70 pages Format A 4

Edition FR to be published in February 1978
Second edition 1977

This brochure is drawn up in accordance with the layout and methodology developed by the Statistical Office of the European Communities. It contains energy balance-sheets in tonnes coal equivalent for each of the Member States and for the Community. The presentation adopted is that of unified balance sheets and balance-sheets broken down by product. Data are provided for the years 1963, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 and 75, with two growth rate series. This publication is available in French only.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS AND SERIES

Orange series : Confidentiality and business statistics in the European Community

Price :	UKL	3.20
	DKR	31,30
	UKL	5.40
	BFR	200

147 pages Format C 5

Editions DA, DE, EN, FR, IT, NL

Published : DE, EN, FR, DA, IT

It is the constant concern of the official statistical services to safeguard the confidentiality of the information with which they are entrusted. Each Member Country has its own customary procedures taking the form, in many cases, of national laws defining the rules of confidentiality applicable to business statistics.

These rules, which were elaborated in a national context, are now applied to Community statistics where they have led, in combination, to a far more drastic shrinkage of information than that which they cause at a national level. At the same time, in industrial circles in every Member Country, there is evident reluctance to release more information than is released by the others, apprehensions conducive to the development of a restrictive approach.

For that reason, the Statistical Office of the European Communities has decided, in agreement with the national statistical services, to examine this problem with a view to its solution. This report is a major contribution to such an undertaking. Its preparation was rendered possible by the collaboration of the various National Statistical Institutes, which not only provided the author with the necessary information regarding the laws and practices relating to the confidentiality of business statistics in their respective countries but also submitted their comments on the first version of the report. Nevertheless, as the author himself has emphasized in his preface, the opinions expressed in this document are strictly his own, and are in no way to be taken as those of the national statistical services or of the Commission of the European Communities.

By circulating this report, the Statistical Office of the European Communities hopes to elicit the reactions and opinions of its readers, including in particular the organisations representing the producers and users of business statistics.

Purple series : Input-output tables 1970

Price :

	complete series	per volume
UKL	30.50	UKL 4.25
DKR	393,50	DKR 55,-
USD	71.60	USD 10.10
BFR	2 500	BFR 350

Special 9-volume series Format A 4

Published :

- Volume 1 - Methodology 1970-1975 : 38 pages
Editions FR, DE, EN, NL, IT, DA
- Volume 2 - United Kingdom 1970 : 121 pages
Edition EN/FR
- Volume 3 - Nederland 1970 : 119 pages
Edition NL/FR
- Volume 4 - Italia 1970 : 119 pages
Edition IT/FR
- Volume 5 - België/Belgique 1970 : 120 pages
Edition NL/FR

Volume 1 of this series describes the methodology established by the SOEC for the construction of input-output tables calculated, from the year 1970 on, according to Community rules. A general description of the input-output table is given, with some detail on its various components and their relationships. The classifications and the accounting rules which are used are defined by a number of references to the European System of integrated economic Accounts (ESA). The last chapter shows a few examples of the way in which the tables can be used for economic analysis.

Each of the volumes 2 to 7 deals with the input-output table of one country (United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Germany, France). In each volume, the first part describes the problems encountered when using the Community classifications and methods and the adjustments made in order to improve comparability from one country to another. A short description of the table is also given. The second part is composed of the input-output table expressed in units of account EUR, tables of direct coefficients (vertical and horizontal) and several tables of indirect coefficients (inverse matrix, content of imports, content of primary inputs in the final uses).

Volume 8 will put together the tables for the countries and the one for the Community. Volume 9 will present the corresponding coefficient tables and will include a comparative analysis of the economic structure of the various countries.

Regional statistics : Population, Employment, Living standards

Price : UKL 4.75
DKR 31
USD 8.25
BFR 300

362 pages

Format A 4

Multilingual edition published in December 1977

This publication contains the most recent statistics on social conditions in the 140 regions of the European Communities :

- Total population and population growth, births, deaths, trends in birth and death rates, age structure, trend of population, interregional movement of population.
- Employment and structure of employment broken down by sex, age, categories of activity, branches of activity.
- Registered unemployment.
- Indicators of the quality of life : physical environment, education, health, miscellaneous indicators of standard of living, workers' earnings.

The yearbook includes a folding map of the regions and 10 maps illustrating the main topics.

Yellow series : Demographic statistics 1960-1976

Price : UKL 4.80
DKR 51
USD 8.30
BFR 300

ISBN 92-825-0046-2

120 pages

Format A 4

Multilingual edition published in February 1978

While all member countries possess highly developed systems of demographic statistics, the wide diversity of practice with regard to the publication and presentation of results make it very difficult to obtain comparable and up-to-date information necessary to study trends within the Community. The present publication, which is the first of a new annual series, represents an attempt to make good this deficiency. All the principal series of demographic statistics are covered, namely population by sex and age groups, births, deaths, migration, marriages, divorces, fertility, life expectancy and population projections. Both absolute numbers and rates are given in considerable detail for countries and for the total Community.

Structure of earnings in wholesale and retail distribution, banking
and insurance in 1974

Price :			
complete series		per volume	
UKL	55	UKL	7.30
DKR	708	DKR	94,50
BFR	4 500	BFR	600
USD	130	USD	17.20

Special series in 10 volumes Format A 4

Published :

Volume 1 - Methods and Definitions : 223 pages
multilingual edition

Volume 2 - Luxembourg : 376 pages
Edition EN/FR

Volume 3 - Danmark : 442 pages
Edition EN/FR

Volume 4 - Belgique/België : 476 pages
Edition EN/FR

This survey has been conducted simultaneously, and according to identical methods, in the 9 countries of the European Community.

Its essential objective was to obtain details of the earnings and of individual characteristics (sex, age, level of professional qualification, length of service, etc.) of employed persons, and of the structure (branch of activity, size, etc.) of the enterprises employing them, in order to bring out the relationships between these facts and the levels of remuneration.

The results are published in one volume for each country.

Labour costs in distributive trades, banking and insurance - 1974

Price : UKL	6.30
DKR	65,50
USD	11
BFR	400

232 pages Format A 4

Multilingual edition published in February 1978

This publication contains the methodology and detailed results of the Community survey of labour costs in wholesale and retail distribution, in banking and in insurance in 1974.

These results cover the labour force and number of enterprises, the average annual hours worked, the wages and salaries and labour costs by employee. The structure of labour costs is analysed by types of expenditure. The results for wholesale and retail distribution are analysed according to the size of enterprises, measured by number of employees and the activities as defined in the General Classification of Economic Activities in the European Communities (NACE).

Methodology of the

Green series : EC-Index of producer prices of agricultural products

Price : UKL	6.20
DKR	62,50
USD	10.70
BFR	400

274 pages

Format A 4

Multilingual edition published in December 1977

This publication is a treatise. It contains the description of the method, the composition and, enriched by graphs, the evolution of the new EC-Index (EUR-9) of the producer prices for agricultural products (base 1970 = 100).

The field of observations covered by the index has been enlarged with regard to the former EC-Index (EUR-6). Numerous seasonal products have been included. Whereas on the annual basis the index comprises also the prices for fruit and vegetables, this information is not yet available at monthly level.

The evolutions presented are concerning the months from January 1969 to December 1975.

Milk and milk products

Price : UKL 5.50
DKR 59
USD 10
BFR 350

102 pages

Format A 4

Multilingual edition published in January 1978

The brochure covers the period up to 1976 in the nine Member States and contains the following information :

- data on the utilization of whole and skimmed milk at the level either of agricultural holdings or of dairies;
- balance sheet for the utilization of butterfat in dairies;
- supplies statements for dairy produce;
- breakdown by region of milk and cream collection.

The retrospective series generally refer to the six founder Member States, but in certain cases comparable data were also obtained for the three new Member States.

Ruby series : Gas prices

Price : £ 13.90
DKr 140,70
US\$ 24
FB 900

264 pages Format A 4

Edition E/F published in October 1977
Edition D/I to be published in December 1977

The study gives the results of the enquiry into gas prices for the period 1970-76 in the nine countries of the Community, with a breakdown covering 29 locations and indication of three values (price without taxes, taxes, selling price). The results are presented in tabular form, illustrated with graphs, and accompanied by a commentary for each country covering : organisation, regulations, tariffs, taxes and detailed analysis of prices. The study concludes with an international comparison for the gas industry overall.

EUROSTAT PERIODICALS

Orange series : Monthly general statistics bulletin

ISSN 0378-3456

Annual subscription :	UKL	24	Single copy :	UKL	3.20
	DKR	246		DKR	32,80
	USD	41.50		USD	5.50
	BFR	1 500		BFR	200

Approximately 188 pages Format A 4 monthly

Principal figures on the short-term economic evolution in the enlarged Community, i.e. : employment, industry, internal trade and services, transport, external trade, price and wage indices, finance, balance of payments.

Yellow series : Hourly earnings - Hours of work

ISSN 0378-3596

Annual subscription :	UKL	9.60	Single copy :	UKL	6.40
	DKR	98,50		DKR	65,55
	USD	16.50		USD	11.10
	BFR	600		BFR	400

Approximately 266 pages Format A 4 half-yearly

This publication which is updated every six months contains harmonized data on workers' hourly wages, on labour costs, and weekly hours worked, plus indices of developments in employees' monthly salaries, by region. The publication also contains some data on the earnings and the conditions of employment of permanent workers in agriculture.

Green series : Crop production

ISSN 0376-3588

Annual subscription :	UKL	40	Single copy :	UKL	4.80
	DKR	410		DKR	49,20
	USD	69		USD	8.25
	BFR	2 500		BFR	300

Approximately 120 pages Format A 4 11 issues per year

The most recent information on

- Crop production of arable land (area, yield, production)
- 1) or Fruit and vegetable production (area, yield, production)
 - 2) Areas sown (twice a year)
 - 3) Stocks and deliveries of cereals and potatoes
 - 4) Meteorological report
 - 5) Supply balances for crop products (3 or 4 per year).

Monthly statistics of meat

ISSN 0376-3553

Annual subscription :	UKL	40	Single copy :	UKL	4.80
	DKR	410		DKR	49,20
	USD	69		USD	8.25
	BFR	2 500		BFR	300

Approximately 100 pages Format A 4 11 issues per year

Publication of monthly statistics supplied by Member States in application of the Council's Directives 73/132/EEC and 76/630 EEC concerning surveys to be carried out in the cattle and pig sectors. The bulletin contains information on slaughterings, on foreign trade in live animals, on production by species and by country. In addition, it may also give information on head structure - comments (red pages) - information about supply balances.

Monthly statistics of sugar

Annual subscription :	UKL	Single copy :	UKL
	DKR		DKR
	USD		USD
	BFR		BFR

Approximately 75 pages Format A 4 11 issues per year

Monthly balance sheets showing the main flows of sugar only, expressed as white sugar equivalent. Products containing sugar (sweetened products) are therefore excluded. The objective of the publication is two-fold : to make provisional annual data rapidly available at the end of the crop year, before the issue of final figures, and to follow the seasonal trends of the different flows.

Monthly statistics of milk

ISSN 0378-3545

Annual subscription :	UKL	22.40	Single copy :	UKL	2.90
	DKR	229,50		DKR	29,50
	USD	39		USD	5
	BFR	1 400		BFR	180

Approximately 60 pages Format A 4 8 to 10 issues per year

Publication of weekly and monthly statistics transmitted by Member States in compliance with the Council directive of 31st July 1972, on the statistical surveys to be made by Member States concerning milk and milk products (72/280/EEC).

The bulletin contains the data relating to cows milk collection and the production of processed products by the dairy industry. From time to time the bulletin may contain a commentary on the supply balance sheets and information on dairy structure.

Monthly statistics of eggs

ISSN 0378-3537

Annual subscription :	UKL	22.40	Single copy :	UKL	2.90
	DKR	229,50		DKR	29,50
	USD	39		USD	5
	BFR	1 400		BFR	180

Approximately 75 pages Format A 4 8 to 10 issues per year

Publication of monthly statistics transmitted by Member States in compliance with the Council regulations 2782/75 and 1868/77 on the commercialisation of hatching eggs and farmyard poultry chicks. The bulletin contains data on the selection, multiplication and the uses by species as well as trade with third countries. In addition the bulletin may contain data on structure of hatcheries, commentaries (pink pages) and information on supply balance sheets.

Selling prices of vegetable products

ISSN 0378-6714

Annual subscription :	UKL	43.20	Single copy :	UKL	4.80
(Selling prices of animal	DKR	442,50		DKR	49.20
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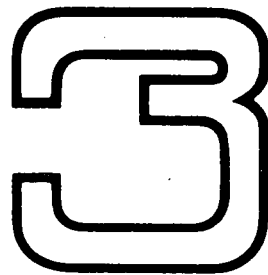
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SOCIAL REVIEW
OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONS

Bernard LANGEVIN

With the large set of data now available on various social aspects of the one hundred or so regions of the European Community* it is possible to carry out in-depth analyses and comparisons of the social realities in these regions. In this article I shall simply give a preliminary outline of the most striking findings on population, employment, unemployment and standards of living.

1. POPULATION

Territorial distribution

Available space per inhabitant is one of the resources which is least well distributed in Europe - the population per km² ranges from 25 in Corsica to nearly 1000 in South Holland, a ratio of 1 : 40. Apart from pockets of high population density in the major cities of Europe, all the regions with a density of more than 300 inhabitants per km² are situated along a median axis running from England along the Rhine to Northern Italy, while most of the peripheral regions of Europe have densities of less than 100 inhabitants/km².

Population migrations

The concentration of the population along this median axis is explained by the industrial revolution and the resulting industrial areas - comparison between the population density and the percentage of employment in industry is highly significant here. Much of the population growth in industrial regions resulted from an influx of rural population attracted to those areas. However, this traditional migration is now on the decline, as the 'reservoir' of agricultural labour is drained - in most of the Community regions, the proportion of the agricultural population has fallen to less than 10 %.

* Regional Statistics - Population, Employment, Living standards - 1975 - EUROSTAT.

On the other hand, new trends have emerged in the past few years :

- In the first place, the populations of cities appear to have stopped increasing, and in some cases to be declining, as people move towards the less highly populated edges of their catchment areas. This trend has been apparent in the 'city-regions' such as Hamburg, Bremen and Brussels, where the migratory balances are now below the national average, and are often even negative.

- Secondly, certain old industrial regions are having structural reorganization difficulties, while new industries are being established in less industrialized regions with the advantages of space, ease of communications and a pleasant environment. Hence favourable migratory balances for migration are founded towards the regions in the South of Germany, whereas the balance is unfavourable in regions such as the Saarland, Nord-Pas-de-Calais and Lorraine. There is therefore a new flow of emigration, no longer away from agricultural regions, but away from declining industrial regions.

- Finally, retirement is accounting for an increasing movement of older people away from industrial regions to regions with a more pleasant climate and environment, such as Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Liguria and the South West of England.

Natural movement of the population

Migratory movements provide an important indication of the attractiveness of a region, but of course natural movement (that is, the difference between the numbers of births and deaths) also plays an important part in population trends. Between 1950 and 1975 natural movement accounted for an annual average increase of 0.7 % in Europe's population, whereas the migratory balance only accounted for 0.1 %, and even in regions with a high rate of immigration, the influx has practically always been smaller than the natural increase in the population.

Birth rates

Population trends in the regions reflect the general marked decline in the birth rate since 1966/67. After the last war, the birth rate remained in the region of 18 births per 1000 inhabitants, but then fell in less than 10 years to below 13 births per 1000 inhabitants, and with the present age structure of Europe's population, a net reproduction rate of 1 should give a birth rate of approximately 15 births per 1000 inhabitants.

Since 1972 the number of girls being born has been smaller than the number of girls in their parents' generations and in the long run, if there is no immigration, the population will decline. In 1975, more than 3/4 of the Community regions had birth rates below the self-renewal level, and in some parts of Germany births did not even reach 2/3 of the figure required for self-renewal.

However, one should make a distinction between two different types of regions with low birth rates :

- regions where a low birth rate is a long-standing and relatively stable feature of the region, such as Piedmont and Liguria (and to a lesser extent, all the French and Italian regions around the Gulf of Lions and the Ligurian sea).
- regions where a low birth rate is a new phenomenon and where has been marked and rapid decline in the birth rate, such as almost all the regions of Germany and, to a lesser extent, all of Northern Europe.

In this respect Ireland is in an exceptional position in that its birth rate has remained at a fairly constant level of approximately 22 births per 1000 inhabitants - a rate which, in 1975, was two and a half times that in the Saarland or Düsseldorf.

It is also interesting to note that the birth rate has a rather marked 'national' character, often with clear differences on either side of frontiers.

Mortality rate

In the period since the 50's, mortality rates have varied much less than birth rates, since the major advances in health and medicine took place before that date. But there are still certain differences in levels, which

are partly due to the age of the population, but cannot be wholly explained by such differences in population structures. Even with fairly similar structures, the mortality rates in Oberpfalz (Germany) and the North of England are still clearly higher than that in Denmark, for example.

These major disparities in mortality rates are mainly accounted for by the levels of infant mortality, which differ considerably from region to region - the risk of death in the first year of life is three times higher in Campania (Italy) than in Drenthe (Netherlands). The most striking feature of infant mortality is that it is distinctly national; for example, in all the regions of Germany without exception, the infant mortality rate was above 15 per thousand in 1975, and while the German regions bordering on the Netherlands had rates of between 21 and 24 deaths per thousand births, the rates in the Dutch regions on the other side of the frontier were between 9 and 12 deaths per thousand !

If we calculate the resultant of these birth and mortality rates we obtain a very different picture for the different regions. Ireland, Southern Italy and certain regions of the Netherlands have a rate of natural increase in the population of 1 % p.a. or more, while in many of the German regions, the indigenous population is declining; unless the trend is reversed, this decline will gradually spread to most of the regions of Northern Europe (except for Ireland) and to the South of France, with a gradual increase in the age of the population.

Population structure by age

It is not possible within the framework of this article to give a detailed analysis of the regional age pyramids created by the various natural and migratory movements and changes wrought by the two world wars. The 'index of ageing', that is, the ratio between the number of persons aged 65 and over and the number of children aged 0 to 14 years, does however provide a rough indication of the youth and age of a region. The map showing the indices of ageing throughout Europe is extremely variegated, with frequent

transnational characteristics. The 'old' regions, for example, form a long strip along the Mediterranean coast from the South-West of France to Tuscany, with 'pockets' in Nidersachsen (Germany) and the South West of England. The 'young' regions are in three corners of Europe: Southern Italy, Ireland, and a small strip formed by the eastern regions of the Netherlands and Belgian Limburg.

2. LABOUR FORCE

The size of the labour force available in a region depends partly on the size of the population of working age (cf. above) and partly on the activity rate of this section of the population.

Activity rate

The activity rates covers all people in the work force whether they have a job or not. There is a considerable difference between the activity rates for men and women.

The male activity rate is above 90 % in all regions for men aged between 35 and 44; the lowest rates are found in the Mezzogiorno (South of Italy) and the Italian islands, in Hainaut and in Belgian and Dutch Limburg. However, there are considerable variations in both the age of entering the labour market and the age of retirement, and taken all in all, the activity rates for all men aged between 14 and 64 range from approximately 70 % in the above-mentioned regions to nearly 90 % in regions like East Anglia and the West Midlands in England.

For women, the situation is far less uniform. In the case of young women, the maximum activity rate, measured at national level*, occurs around the age of 20, but at regional level there are enormous differences - for example, for the 14 - 24 age group, the activity rates vary from over 55 % in Mittelfranken, Lüneburg and Aurich (all in Germany) and Alsace, to less than 10 % in Sicily. This low rate is a marked feature of the regions in the South of Italy, including Lazio, all of which without exception have activity rates below 25 %, which is lower than anywhere else in Europe.

* Cf. Labour force sample survey - 1975 - EUROSTAT, pp. 62 and 63.

Many women leave the labour market to set up families and have children and then return gradually as the children grow up.

Depending on whether this return to the labour market is encouraged or discouraged for sociological or economic reasons, the following phenomena are observed:

- either an increase in the activity rate, peaking in the forties age group, as observed in central England and Scotland where $\frac{2}{3}$ of the women work, and also in Hildesheim and Oldenburg (North Germany) where the level is slightly lower;
- or a continuing decline in the activity rate, as in all the Belgian regions, where the activity rates are generally low;
- or, as in most of the regions of Europe, a stabilization of the activity rates, at levels which may be above 55 % as in Ile de France, Basse Normandie, Denmark, Württemberg and Bavaria or, conversely, below 30 % as in Ireland and the majority of the Italian regions, but also in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Saarland and all the regions of the Netherlands. In fact the lowest activity rates in Europe are found in the Netherlands - in Friesland the activity rate is barely above 10 %.

Taking all in all, the presence on the labour market of women aged 14 - 64 varies considerably from region to region, from an average of nearly 60 % in Ile de France to less than 20 % in Friesland, Sardinia and Sicily. The regions where less than a third of all women work include all regions of the Netherlands, the eastern regions of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Saarland, all regions of Italy except for Emilia-Romagna and Marche and, finally, Ireland. On the other hand, more than half of the women work throughout Great Britain (except for Wales), and in the central western regions of France, Franche-Comté, Bavaria and Tübingen, and Denmark.

Women's activity rates have a decisive effect on the overall activity rate of a region - since men's activity rates vary much less - and there is a strong correlation in the patterns of regional distribution.

Unemployment

Two series of figures are provided for unemployment :

- persons registering themselves as unemployed during the Community survey on labour forces, and
- unemployed persons registered at labour exchanges.

To compare the levels of unemployment in different regions of the Community, we shall for preference use the harmonized results of the Community survey on labour forces, which gives unbiased and internationally comparable results; however the results suffer as usual from the uncertainties inherent in sample surveys. For evaluating trends in unemployment, we will use the more precise figures on the registered unemployed since the bias due to national differences in legislation has only a marginal effect on trends.

Up to 1973*, the rate of unemployment in the Community was very low - generally below 2% - except in certain regions, usually agricultural ones, where there was high and virtually permanent unemployment, as in most of the regions of Italy (except for a few regions in the North), Ireland, and the regions of North in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Since 1974, there has been a considerable increase in unemployment. In 1975, the average rate of unemployment had almost doubled over 1973 and a fairly large number of regions, above all peripheral ones, had rates higher than 5%. Certain sectors of the population, especially women and young people, took the brunt. Female unemployment was particularly bad in France and Italy, where the female unemployment rate is double that for men in most regions. The rate of unemployment of young people aged between 14 and 24 was on average more than twice the total unemployment rate. This factor of two was common to virtually all the regions of the Community, except for Italy, where it was sometimes as high as four - in Southern Italy and Liguria unemployment of young people reached disturbingly high levels, in the region of 20%.

* Cf. Population, Employment, Living conditions 1973-1974 - EUROSTAT.

On the other hand, there were particularly serious increases in levels of unemployment in the regions of Southern Germany, in Niedersachsen, and in Denmark, Scotland and Alsace.

Structure of employment

The relative share of agriculture, industry and the services in total employment is one of the main characteristics of a region. In 1975, agriculture accounted for only 8 % of total employment in the Community. This shows the extent of the decline in this sector, which in 1950 still accounted for nearly a quarter of total employment*.

But even now there are some regions where more than 20 % of the population are employed in agriculture, namely the whole of the South of Italy, the West of France, Basse Normandie, Limousin and Languedoc-Roussillon (all in France), Ireland and Niederbayern. These regions generally have serious problems caused both by their structural and virtually permanent unemployment and by their relative poverty, due to the lower productivity levels of the farming sector.

The activity rate in these regions is similar to that found in the other regions - it is primarily the industrial sector which is depressed, rather than the services, and in a way employment in agriculture 'makes up' for the lack of jobs in industry.

The overall share of the industrial sector in total employment has remained fairly stable. The most striking feature of the sector is its very slow rate of transfer to new regions - there are still some regions with very high industrial concentrations, such as Lombardy and Rhone-Alpes (where 60 % and 45 % of employment is in industry) with neighbouring regions where industries have still not taken root, such as Languedoc-Roussillon, where the level of employment in industry is below 25 %.

In the period between 1950 and 1975 the share of the services sector in total employment increased from one third to a half. There is a direct correlation between the predominance of the services sector and the presence of capitals and large cities in a region, and also, more strangely, the importance of this sector appears to increase with the old age of the populations.

* Population and Employment - 1950/1976 - EUROSTAT.

3. STANDARD OF LIVING

Employment, and the structure of employment with the various sectoral differences in productivity, determine the level of the regional product; but the standard of living in a region can be better gauged from the product or income per inhabitant than from the product per employed person.

Dependence rate

One must therefore take account of the whole population, including the non-active persons who are dependent on the active population. The number of non-active persons (i.e. persons who are non-active although of working age, children, and old people) dependent on an active person is referred to as the dependence rate. It is influenced by the activity rate of persons aged between 14 and 64, and by the demographic structure of the region. Regional disparities in these two characteristics (cf. comments above) are usually fairly parallel. As a result, there are large variations in the dependence rate : in the South of Italy and in Dutch Limburg and the North-East of the Netherlands, every active person has more than two non-active dependents, but in Ile de France each active person has only one non-active dependent.

Product per inhabitant

In most cases the regional disparities in the dependence rate tally with those already noted in the product per employed person, and therefore simply intensify these divergences. As a result, the gross domestic product per inhabitant varies considerably, from an index of 200 for Hamburg to an index of 37 for Calabria; the poorest regions are in Southern Italy and Ireland.

The regions which are below the Community average can be divided into several different groups, according to the main factors responsible for this situation :

- the regions in the East and South of the Netherlands, where the main factor responsible is the low activity rate among women;

- the regions in the South and West of France, and the North and South-East of Germany, which are still predominantly agricultural;
- the regions in the North-East of Italy where both of these factors play a part;
- all the regions of Great Britain, where the main reason appears to be low productivity;
- regions in Belgium such as Luxembourg, Hainaut and Limburg, where low productivity is combined with a low activity rate;
- Southern Italy and Ireland, which suffer from a combination of all these factors, together with a very high dependence rate in Southern Italy.

Income and consumption per inhabitant

In the countries for which figures are available, the range of disposable incomes per inhabitant appears to have narrowed more than the range of GDP per inhabitant. This illustrates the extent of income transfers between regions, and the role of these transfers in correcting inequalities of living standards.

For the most part, these disparities in income are reflected in consumption levels, since the differences in consumption habits (or propensities) are too small to significantly alter the range of incomes observed.

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