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Regions — Statistical yearbook 1987

Theme 1 — Series A: Yearbooks

In this publication, the Statistical Office of the European Communities gives the latest statistics on the main aspects of social and economic life in the regions of the Community:

(i) population,

(ii) employment and unemployment,

(iii) education, health and various social indicators,

(iv) economic aggregates,

(v) characteristics of different sectors of the economy: agriculture, industry, energy and the services sector,

(vi) The Community's financial participation in investments.

The main regional indicators are also presented in a series of coloured maps.

For the first time, the 'Regions' yearbook covers the Community of Twelve. For Portugal, however, only a few figures are available at regional level.

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Statistical Office of the European Communities
L-2920 Luxembourg-Kirchberg, rue Alcide De Gasperi, Bâtiment Jean Monnet Tel. 4 30 11, Telex Comeur Lu 3429

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News items

Conference of Directors-General of the National Statistical Institutes

From left to right: Professor J. Ruiz-Castillo, Director-General of INE, Mrs C. Aribas of INE, Mr A. Borkmann of the Statistisches Bundesamt, Dr G. Hamer, vice-president of the Statistisches Bundesamt, Mr N. V. Skak-Nielsen, Director-General of Danmarks Statistik

The 67th Conference of Directors-General of the National Statistical Institutes (DGINS) met in Seville on 6 to 8 May 1987, at the invitation of the Instituto Nacional de Estadística of Spain and to mark the entry of Spain into the European Communities in 1986. The Spanish delegation was led by Professor Javier Ruiz-Castillo, the Director-General of the INE.

At a reception given by the Spanish Government to the conference, Mr Guillermo de la Dehesa, Secretary of State for Economy, spoke of the importance of the large market for statistical work in the Community.

From left to right: Mr P. Nanopoulos, Director at Eurostat, Mr S. Ronchetti, Director-General of Eurostat, Mr G. Clarke, Adviser to the Director-General and Mr A. Chantraine, Director at Eurostat

Indeed one important theme in the discussions was the future programme of work on Community statistics, with particular reference to the statistical implications of the large market. The aim to remove customs barriers by 1992 poses the problems of maintaining, at lowest cost, those statistics of trade between Member States which may be required after 1992. The large single market also calls for an improved statistical system where differing national standards and practices will no longer hinder the availability of statistical information about the Community as a whole.

Mr S. Ronchetti, Director-General of Eurostat, between the two new Directors at Eurostat, Mr A. Girão, Director of the Directorate 'External trade, ACP and non-member countries and transport statistics' (left) and Mr A. Chantraine, Director of the Directorate 'Processing and dissemination of statistical information' (right)

The conference also discussed Eurostat proposals to deal with the problem of statistical confidentiality. There was also some consideration of developments in informatics and dissemination policy.

The work of Eurostat in 1986

1. General

In 1986 much progress was made by the two new Member States, Spain and Portugal, and by Eurostat to ensure the extension of the Community statistical system to cover the 12 Member States who now constitute the European Community.

Reflections have begun on the preparation of future Community statistical programmes, including such considerations as:

(i) the need to establish closer links between Community policy initiatives on the one hand and statistical priorities and resource possibilities on the other,

(ii) the need for national statistical services to be able to deploy adequate resources for statistical work generated by Community policy initiatives.

Eurostat organized, or was associated with the organization of, a number of seminars in 1986. These covered a wide variety of topics including statistical and scientific data base management (Third International Workshop), purchasing power parities, statistics and African food strategy, employment statistics and statistical assessment of land use.

2. Processing and dissemination of statistical information

2.1. *Processing*

As far as processing is concerned, the emphasis in 1986 was on providing a framework and medium for production, with priority given to infrastructure development as regards both the organization and architecture of processing systems and the means of communication with other producers or users of statistics, within and outside the European institutions.

In particular, studies were carried out with a view to establishing a central collection service in Eurostat. Apart from allowing improved monitoring of operations, this should also facilitate the supply of data in the users' working environment. At the same time, a project is underway to study implementation of the United Nations UNEDI standard for the transmission of statistical data, as are pilot experiments with the Member States on the use of electronic transmission in the data collection process.

As regards publications, a report aimed at rationalizing the production of statistical reports and their (electronic) distribution was commissioned and the specialized infrastructure required, in particular, for computer-assisted publication established.

2.2. *Dissemination*

During 1986, apart form its usual tasks of data base management and training, the work of the dissemination unit was focused on three main areas:

(i) Documentation of the data contained in the base; by starting off with a complete reworking of the Cronos indexing and keywords system, it proved possible for the first time to include the Statistical Office in a much broader, inter-institutional framework through the common vocabulary Eurovoc. In addition, new classification plans, serving as genuine user guides, were drawn up for each of the Cronos domains. These plans contain not only the lists of existing variables but also the methodology, sources, problems and definitions used, as well as the publications enabling users to cross-check data in the banks. In other words, the plans constitute an exhaustive catalogue of all the data available in Cronos, with information on the existing series, their periodicity and their length. Currency can be ascertained by data set, statistical theme, country, Cronos domain or collection. In short, a catalogue tailored to users' needs.

(ii) Promotion of the data banks to preferential users through private services. This work consists mainly in demonstrations, courses, conferences and meetings of users in the main countries, with the result that outside consultation now accounts for just 10% of all consultation of Commission departments.

(iii) Production of small packages geared towards particular types of user. Operating under Cronos, the Eurostatus subset, with 50 fully documented and updated short-term economic indicators per country, has proved a considerable success; the Eurostatistics subset, identical in every way to the publication of the same name, also proved a great success, primarily because it can be consulted without recourse to a classification plan. Finally, the Eurostat Videotex facility used in the European Parliament's experimental Ovide data base offers clear proof that highly user-oriented 'products' are in great demand and are here to stay.

2.3. *Public relations, information and summary reports*

New guidelines were introduced for Eurostat publications. Their aims are as follows:

(i) as regards form: improved structuring of the programme, which now consists of series (yearbooks, short-term indicators, statistical accounts, studies and analyses, methods, rapid statistics) for each of the traditional themes (industry, agriculture, etc.) and selection, for each of the series, of the most appropriate techniques for meeting the requirements of speed, punctuality and quality of print;

(ii) as regards content: production of the series 'Studies and analyses' and 'Methods', which are likely to expand in future.

These guidelines also contain the first draft of recommendations on the complementarity of the various dissemination media, i.e. publications, data bases, microfiche, diskettes, etc.).

Eurostat also expanded the 'communication' aspect of its publication programme by issuing, in tandem with the quarterly bulletin *Eurostat news*, a catalogue of its statistical publications. In presenting its products, Eurostat made maximum use of the channels provided by the Spokesman's Service of the Commission and the Directorate-General for Information, with a view to reaching key disseminators and, through the press, the public at large.

3. General economic statistics

3.1. *National accounts*

The start of a new operational phase of the revision of the SNA was marked by the organization of the first of a series of meetings of the Group of Experts at world level.

The meeting was held in Geneva in June 1986. The 15 experts discussed the general structure of the SNA and identified the various aspects requiring more detailed examination at the specialized meetings.

In November 1986 Eurostat hosted the first such meeting, which examined the problems of deflation in time and space.

An active role in these discussions is played by Eurostat and two permanent experts from Community countries (Mr Vanoli and Mr Lutzel).

Eurostat endeavours, as far as possible to prepare the specialist meetings of the UN

Group of Experts at the meetings of the Working Group on 'National accounts'.

Also to be noted are:

(i) the launching of the 1985 input/output tables exercise, including the input/output tables for energy;

(ii) commencement of a study of the breakdown of household accounts by socio-professional category.

3.2. *Classifications*

In 1986, Eurostat continued its work in the field of harmonization of classifications at world level.

The DGINS conference also examined the problem of harmonization of classifications in connection with the planned creation of a large internal market in 1992. If there could not be complete identity between the revised NACE and the SITC Rev. 3, it was emphasized that the best possible concordance would have to be maintained between the two systems. The revised NACE will however need to take account of specific Community and national requirements. Another point is that one of the aggregation levels of NACE will have to tally with the classification used in the national accounts and input/output tables.

It is also intended that use of the revised NACE (and later the CPC) shall become obligatory at both national and Community levels for the publication and transmission of data.

3.3. *Balance of payments*

The two main concerns of the work in this field were methodology and analysis:

The Working Group 'Balance of Payments' turned its attention to the methodological problems arising in connection with the chronology of special and general trade and the valuation of current transactions on a net or gross basis. Further progress was made on the proposed classification of exchanges in invisibles. In the context of the revision of the SNA and the IMF Balance of payments manual, the Working Group examined the scope for harmonization of the two systems.

Analysis of bilateral asymmetries in balances of payments continued in cooperation with the IMF at world level; various approaches designed to reduce these asymmetries between the Member States were examined.

Eurostat also consolidated and developed the collection and analysis of data on international trade in services in the context of the current GATT negotiations and in collaboration with the OECD. The statistical information requirements corresponding to this work were defined by the Article 113 Committee of the Council of Ministers. The report on services for the GATT has been updated. A number of specific tasks were carried out in the transport domain.

3.4. *Regional statistics*

The NUTS nomenclature of territorial statistical units has been extended to include the statistical regions of Spain and Portugal, the Portuguese regions having been defined by that country's authorities in the spring of 1986 in collaboration with the relevant Commission departments. Also currently under way is a study of the scope for using NUTS as the basis for a nomenclature of localities of the European Community.

A milestone in the development of regional statistics was the completion of the studies of regional accounts in the agricultural sector (the 1982-83-84 results for most Member States are now available). It should also be noted that the Working Group on Economic Accounts and Regional Statistical Indicators has started examining the question of the regionalization of the accounts of central government.

The 1986 updating and the back-calculation of 1979 and 1981 of comparable regional rates of unemployment were carried out in October 1986. They are needed both for the Commission's third periodical report on the socio-economic situation in the regions of the Community and for the mechanism for the definition of priority regions for assistance from the European Social Fund.

3.5. *Financial accounts*

1986 saw the extension of the geographical coverage of the financial accounts, with the Greek accounts becoming available as from December. In the case of the Spanish financial accounts, bilateral discussions with Spanish experts with a view to solving the methodological problems arising in connection with these accounts have reached the point at which it can be expected that Spain's financial accounts in accordance with the ESA classification will be available in mid-1987. A study contract has also been concluded with an Irish expert with a view to drawing up that country's financial accounts, and the results of the study are expected to be available at the end of the year.

The dissemination of the financial accounts has been considerably improved by the production of a bilingual brochure (English/French) containing tables, charts and an economic commentary on trends in financial flows. This publication appears at relatively short intervals, roughly two months after the national data are supplied to Eurostat.

3.6. *Financial indicators*

A major effort has been devoted to the preparation of a quickly produced monthly note on the ECU and the EMS. This note is scheduled to appear regularly from the start of 1987 and its emphasis will be on statistics of the private use of the ECU, including bonds issued in ECU, rates of interest on ECU deposits and the index of prices converted into ECU. Also in preparation, in the same context, is a data bank on bond issues in ECU.

At the request of DG II, part of the national monetary indicators data bank is being revised to take account of the many restructurings in national presentations of money supply and related data.

As far as the other monetary indicators are concerned, the integration of the data for Spain and Portugal has now been completed, particularly as regards the data regularly analysed in the Report on the economic situation prepared for the President of the Commission and those disseminated in the quarterly publications *Money and finance*.

At the start of 1987, annual data on the external assets and liabilities of the Member States of the Community will be available for a 10-year period (1976—85), and will be broken down into four sectors or broad categories: General government, Central banks, Other monetary and credit institutions and the Non-bank private sector.

Finally, research is continuing in the field of money supply, with a view to the establishment of an indicator of the money supply of the Community.

3.7. *Surveys of prices and purchasing power parities*

In this domain, Eurostat concentrated on collecting the data for phase V (1985) that were still missing for the Member States and Austria, in particular data relating to food products, health sector products and the weighting data for GDP.

In the course of 1986, all the data needed for calculating parities were checked and analysed in detail, and at the end of the year Eurostat was able to calculate, on a provisional basis, the first results for parities and real values.

It must be emphasized that these activities at Community level are carried out in close collaboration with the OECD and with the Economic Commission for Europe, in order to make it possible to extend the comparisons to a large number of non-Community countries.

As far as the world-level project is concerned, Eurostat has coordinated the work for some 20 African countries. Most of the data became available in the course of 1986 and Eurostat will be working out the first results in the near future. The Office also played an active role in the work at world level, especially with regard to the system of core countries which will allow comparisons at world level to be obtained very quickly. Eurostat also prepared the French version of the results for phase IV (1980).

3.8. *Work on weighting coefficients*

During 1986 Eurostat continued its collection of the basic data required to check post-adjustments for 1985 for the capitals of the Community countries and for Ispra. In particular, the work of processing the questionnaires on the final expenditure of officials and their expenditure on rent has been completed and the results have been integrated in the new calculations which will soon be available. The corresponding methodology and the statistical data to be used for the purpose are currently being discussed by a special working party.

Considerable work has been carried out on the weighting coefficients for officials outside the Community. These included, in particular, a survey of prices in New York, which made it possible to use the data already available at the United Nations (International Public Service Committee), with the result that purchasing power parities could be calculated for some 75 countries and those of other countries will follow. The work of updating these parities will necessitate the introduction of a system of price indices temporal for a large number of countries.

3.9. *Family budgets*

At Eurostat's initiative, a special exercise was carried out on the family budget surveys in collaboration with the statistical services of two member countries, to complete the questionnaires and use the results of these surveys for analysing the phenomenon of poverty. These joint activities resulted in the preparation of a common supplementary questionnaire and an analysis programme.

Further efforts were made in 1986 to ensure the harmonization of new surveys in the Member States.

3.10. *Indices of consumer prices*

Work on updating a report on the comparison of methods used in the Member States to calculate consumer price indices has not yet been finished; it is included in the 1987 programme.

The Commission has requested Eurostat, in connection with its campaign againt tobacco, to publish a price index excluding tobacco, and the Office has taken appropriate steps to ensure it can calculate such an index for the member countries and for the Community as a whole. Publication is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 1987.

4. **External trade, ACP and non-member countries, and transport statistics**

4.1. *Methodology and classification*

The search for a new method to be applied to statistics of trade between Member States following the opening up of the large internal market in 1992 has continued and been discussed at the highest administrative level.

The introduction of new Community rules on inward processing will affect statistics from 1987 onwards and it has therefore been necessary to examine how the relevant Community returns should be adapted.

The SOEC has persuaded the national statistical services to begin in 1988 submitting returns on their external trade goods movements in a breakdown by means of transport (including the nationality of the means of transport and containerization), to be used for Community requirements.

The rules on the application of the single administrative document from 1 January 1988 onwards have been drawn up in close cooperation with the other Commission departments involved (Customs union, transport, agriculture etc.) and the corresponding Member States' authorities

4.2. *Nomenclature*

Harmonized commodity description and coding system

As a result of integration of the HS into the system of Community nomenclatures, rules have been drawn up on a combined tariff and statistical nomenclature which it is proposed to introduce in 1988, the first version of which will become available during the first six months of 1987.

4.3. *Transport*

Eurostat participated in the 1986 meetings of the Commission's Working Group of the major ports of the Community who agreed in principle on the establishment of EEC port authority statistics. A preliminary analysis was made of the sources, coverage and classifications used for the wide range of statistics currently published by individual port authorities (METRA 4). Eurostat presented a draft questionnaire for completion by members of the group, including a classification of maritime traffic by mode of appearance and a classification of countries by maritime trading areas (METRA 5).

The classification of cargo by mode of appearance for all modes of transport is now possible according to the new UN Recommendation No 21 'Code for types of cargo, packages and packaging materials'. Eurostat collaborated within an intersecretariat group on the final development, including diagrams and rules of application, of this Recommendation which was adopted at the March 1986 session of the UN/ECE Working Party on the Simplification of International Trade Procedures.

Eurostat participated in the work of the UN/ECE Group of Experts on Transport Statistics, including an *ad hoc* meeting organized by the International Road Transport Union. In the context of the recently introduced work item reconciling unharmonized transport statistics, Eurostat submitted a paper 'Park of road goods vehicles: size classification' (METRA 7).

4.4. *Data-transmission*

The Community external trade statistics were collected regularly every month on the basis of the Nimexe nomenclature in accordance with the basic regulations and transmitted to Eurostat.

Since the beginning of 1986 the statistics of Spain and Portugal are included. Some remaining problems in the implementation of the methods and computer programming will be overcome in 1987.

4.5. *Introduction of the harmonized system (SH)*

The Working Group 'Production' has prepared the collection of data from 1988 onwards based on the harmonized system, the 'unique document' and broken down by modes of transport.

4.6. *External trade data bank*

The results of the External trade statistics of the Community, expressed in the Nimexe nomenclature and derived nomenclatures such as the SITC, NACE, CCT, textiles etc. has regularly been made available 'on-line' both internally and externally (host company — CISI).

Reorganization of the informatics services is in progress. This should optimize the treatment and dissemination of the data.

4.7. *Publications*

The Nimexe analytical tables and the 1986 yearbook were published regularly, along with the quarterly microfiche.

The prompt publication of the monthly bulletin posed some difficulties at the beginning of the year because of reorganization of the contents and a new computerized system of production.

4.8. *Support for the commercial policy of the Community*

The most important activity of the service regarding the commercial policy of the Community was the elaboration and documentation of commercial and tariff statistics which formed the basis for multilateral commercial negotiations following the enlargement, as well as the proposed introduction of the harmonized system. The data bases created for this purpose will also be adapted for use in the GATT New Round discussions.

The study of the integration and implementation of the harmonized system nomenclature for GSP (Generalized system of tariff preferences) statistics has begun and the publication of these statistics is in preparation.

4.9. *Analysis*

Commissioned studies were completed on (i) EC trade with the Asean group of countries (ii) EC trade in manufactures, and are being prepared for publication.

4.10. *Indices of external trade*

A publication is in preparation setting out the methodology and a selection of EC level results from the system which has been developed to calculate EC unit value and volume indices on a common basis. EC results are being published in the monthly bulletin of external trade statistics. Discussions are proceeding with Member States on what data shall be published relating to individual Member States.

4.11. *Technical cooperation*

The technical cooperation programme has continued at the expanded level of recent years. This reflects the interest shown by beneficiary countries and the priority given by the Commission to cooperation with developing countries. In particular the emphasis on sectoral policies in the Lomé III Convention has lead to an increased consciousness of the need for statistics. Particular emphasis continues to be placed on close collaboration with the Directorate-General for Development, with EC Member States and with international organizations. The main projects in progress are:

(i) Training of statisticians: following approval in 1984 of the recommendations of the study on training needs in Africa, the implementation of a first set of actions for funding by the European Development Fund (regional part) is nearly completed.

(ii) External trade statistics: work has continued on (a) implementing in WAEC[1] countries the methodological regulation which has been further clarified and on (b) computerizing the WAEC secretariat. A study has been completed reconciling the WAEC external trade nomenclature and the Ecowas[2] customs nomenclature in the framework of the harmonized system. The statistics interface of Unctad's Asycuda project (customs computerization — the source of external trade statistics in an increasing number of West African countries) is being supported.

[1] Western African Economic Community.
[2] Economic Community of Western African States.

(iii) ICP-Africa: in phase V (24 African countries) surveys have been carried out in most countries and the results are being analysed.

(iv) National accounts: projects are under way in Benin, Tanzania, Cameroon and Congo. More general aspects of the role of NA in developing countries are being studied with the French and UK authorities.

(v) Household surveys: the EDF funded project in Benin is well under way. A similar EDF funded project in Togo has started.

(vi) Food strategy: Eurostat is associated with those Community projects which have a statistical character (CILSS, Kenya, etc.). Eurostat's detailed complementary work in Mali is progressing well. Based on detailed feasibility studies in Tanzania various projects to strengthen statistics there have started. A programme is being mounted in Swaziland. An International Workshop was organized in Brussels. The proceedings will be published.

(vii) Other: statistical contributions to EC cooperation with certain countries and regions has continued including Yugoslavia, China, Latin America and the Indian Ocean.

4.12. *Statistics of developing countries*

Extensions to the contents of the relevant domains of the Cronos data base have been successfully completed. The 1986 version of the pocket size annual *ACP: Basic statistics* has been issued comprising a selection of the main macroeconomics series on some 65 associated countries with figures generally to 1983. The two volumes of the two/three yearly publication *Yearbook of foreign trade statistics* (i) ACP countries (ii) Mediterranean countries, have also been published, giving figures for the period 1977-83.

5. Energy and industrial statistics

5.1. *Energy*

New and renewable energy sources

In view of the relative importance of alternative energy sources in overall energy consumption, the methodological aspects of recording them have been examined and a certain number of solutions have been put forward. The collection of information on this problem has been put in hand but the first results will probably not be available before the end of 1987.

Survey of household energy consumption

After two successive meetings with the national representatives and following numerous consultations between the SOEC and political services of the Commission, it has been agreed that the SOEC will survey energy flows in quantities and values, and collect information on energy-consuming equipment, on housing and on the investment of households in respect of what can be called 'thermal renovation'.

The arrangements for collecting this information could be, depending on the country, as follows:

(i) by means of an *ad hoc* survey,

(ii) by adding an 'energy part to existing surveys',

(iii) by processing the results available on the basis of certain surveys or studies.

The reference year will probably be 1988 and the results could be available towards the end of 1989.

Inter-secretariat energy group

Closer international cooperation has resulted in the creation, under the ECE/UNO in Geneva, of a 'Joint Working Group on Energy Statistics' involving the three most active European international organizations: ECE/UNO, OECD/IEA and Eurostat.

Three regular consultations take place each year which aim to:

(i) maintain and build on the progress already made in the harmonization of definitions and balance sheet methodology;

(ii) coordinate the planning essential for a cohesive analysis of the energy economy;

(iii) find practical ways of reducing the workload on countries and international organizations in collecting and publishing data.

The main issue at the first meetings was a draft 'Standard international classification of activities in the energy sector' which must maintain the appropriate links with the base classifications.

EIS/Baden project (Energy information system/Base de données énergétiques)

The EIS/Baden project foresees the creation of a single central data base on energy within the Commission. Work continued throughout 1986 towards its inauguration.

The structure of the data base has been established: it consists of logical entities, each containing all data accessible via a common key structure. The entities, classifications and associated access keys have been defined. The EIS/Baden base is at present being loaded and its contents have been extended to include energy production by nuclear power stations.

Several applications of the Eurostat and the Directorate-General for Energy have already been programmed. In particular the new Eurostat monthly publication *Energy* that started in 1986, will be compiled from this data base.

Energy prices

(a) Reviews of gas and electricity consumer prices from 1980 to 1986 were published and included explanations of tariff and taxation systems, an analysis of the results and an international comparison.

(b) Very long chronological series on consumer prices are being entered into the new energy data bank (EIS/Baden).

Energy input/output tables 1980

Analysis of available data is complete, but delays by some Member States in forwarding the results are hampering the statistical programme.

5.2. *Industry*

Statistics on the structure and activity of industry

The subcommittee met in November 1986 to take stock of progress on the coordinated annual survey on industrial activity in the Member States. Among the main problems discussed was the inacceptably long time taken to submitting the survey data, which made it very difficult for Eurostat to carry out a policy of efficient dissemination.

The subcommittee also discussed the possibility of the Member States submitting data to Eurostat annually on enterprises employing fewer than 20 persons, and decided to concentrate in future on the problems arising from the demography of enterprises.

During the first half of 1986 the results from the annual surveys relating to 1982 were published. The manuscript with the 1983 results is being printed.

During 1987 Eurostat will publish the results of the annual survey relating to 1984; there are also plans to publish the results of the annual survey broken down into size classes of enterprises, and the regional data from the annual survey.

In view of the great demand for statistics on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), an internal publication has been produced, containing the results of the five-yearly survey on small enterprises for those Member States which supplied the data and indicators on their role in the different industrial sectors. It is planned to disseminate this information more widely in future.

Production statistics

The last meeting of the Working Party on Production Statistics, which took place in December 1986, completed the harmonization of a list of products having a substantial 'high-technology' content, with a final sector covering precision instruments, measuring and monitoring apparatus, and watches and clocks. The first data collected by the national statistical institutes will relate to 1985, and if possible 1984 and 1983.

In addition, the first figures relating to mechanical and to electrical and electronic engineering, harmonization of which was completed in 1985, have begun to arrive at Eurostat.

Lastly, Eurostat has produced a publication entitled *Methodology*, which sets out the main features of the methodologies applied by the Member States for drawing up their industrial production statistics. This publication will be available in the first quarter of 1987.

Short-term statistics

A large number of indices have been included in the monthly publication, *Short-term industrial indicators*. These concern only a part of the short-term industrial series which are available in the Cronos data base. The number of series relating to Spain and Portugal has been increased significantly.

The turnover indices are now monthly. They cover only EUR 9, i.e. the Member States which belonged to the Community in 1980. These indices are practically all at the same stage of being updated, and are also broken down to the same degree (some 30 NACE headings and some 12 groups), as the industrial production index, which relates to the 12 Member States.

In spite of the meetings of the Working Party on Statistics of Building and Civil Engineering in October 1985 and of the Working Party on EC Index of Industrial Producer Prices in April 1986, some of our correspondents, i.e. Insee. Istat, CBS and the Belgian Ministry of Economic Affairs, have still to establish and forward the promised indicators.

A number of our correspondents now send indicators monthly on a magnetic carrier.

Statistical yearbook

The 1985 statistical yearbook has been restructured and enlarged. The main changes are: an increased number of graphics in colour and in black and white, more room given to comparisons of the EC with the United States of America and Japan, and two new sections on raw materials and the energy sector.

Date base

The first prototype of a general system for consulting industrial data (the Simdi system) has been made available to a limited number of users.

The system offers a uniform accessing procedure for about 10 different industrial data bases.

Once the planned further improvements are completed, the system will be made available to all the departments of the European institutions which are interested.

Services statistics

At the Conference of the Directors-General of the National Statistical Institutes, held in Palmela on 28 to 30 May 1986, Eurostat after an important preliminary study, presented a document which outlines the new global approach to 'Services' as a whole and the possible actions to be taken in the short term and long term. The participants favourably received the actions suggested in this document, together with the decision of creating a 'Coordinating committee'. It was also emphasized the importance of the Eurostat projects aiming to maximize the use of the available information as well as the work on nomenclatures.

The new approach defined by Eurostat aims at the services entity and it is carried out according to two closely related tasks:

(a) the collection and analysis of data on the basis of sources already available;

(b) the development of the methodological and legal bases for the creation of a system of statistics on services.

The first step of the action on 'Services' will concern all the sectors 6 to 9 in the NACE, as this step consists of a collection of existing data and of an inventory of the methodological problems and others, will lead to a further division of the actions into some large categories and consequently to work out a long-term strategy. This strategy will be carried out according to the priorities imposed by the need of statistical information of Community policies.

During the second half of the year 1986, the activity was mainly oriented towards the operational conclusion of the document on 'Services' (including the priority area 'Tourism') and to the continuity of the activities concerning 'Transport' and the 'Services' situation, already under implementation in Eurostat.

5.3. *Steel*

Statistical surveys

Use of new statistical questionnaires on the steel industry's steel deliveries and supplies as from January 1986 as decided by the Commission's Steel Statistics Committee on 11 December 1984. Main objective: more accurate calculation of apparent steel consumption in rolled-steel finished-product weight (elimination of double counting and new distinctions by grade). See below.

Statistical integration of the Spanish and Portuguese steel industries as from 1 January 1986.

Creation of a legal basis under Article 47 of the ECSC Treaty in the form of Commission Decision 1566/86/ECSC of 24 February 1986, published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No L 141 of 28 May 1986.

Revision of the production statistics concept agreed by the Commission's Steel Statistics Committee at its 20th meeting on 15 April 1986.

Coordination at Community level of the revision of the steel statistics questionnaires for the UN Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva.

Calculation methods

Revision and development of the method of calculating apparent steel consumption for the Community. Decision taken by the competent working party of the Steel Statistics Committee on 11 November 1986: replacement of the statistical series of apparent consumption in ingot weight by the crude steel equivalent (allowing for the impact of continuous casting). To be carried out (retrospectively) in publications from 1 January 1987 onwards. Establishment of a new series for apparent steel consumption in rolled-steel finished-product weight using the new questionnaires on the steel industry's steel deliveries and supplies as from January 1986.

Coordinated proposal to the UN Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva on an overall method of calculation in finished-product weight (conversion of crude steel production to rolled-steel weight) allowing for cropping losses in the steel industry and integrated plants. Defence of the traditional statistical series in crude steel equivalent for reasons of comparability.

Statistical studies

Execution of the third stage of the second three-year programme (1983-85) on steel consumption by branch in 1984. Approval of the third three-year programme (1986-88). Commencement of studies on 1985 for the 12 Member States in 1986/87 (results to be expected in October 1987). Production of a consolidated Community report on 1984. Preparation of a first report on the method and results for 1970-84 (publication in January 1987).

Production of steel input/output tables for the Member States. Results for 1980 available at the end of 1986: Netherlands, United Kingdom (79), Denmark and Germany.

Studies on 1980 started at the end of 1986: Italy; BLEU.

Decision to computerize the tables taken at the end of 1986; work to be completed by the end of 1987.

Data bank 'Steel'

The preparatory work is not sufficiently advanced for the bank to be operational before the beginning of 1989. At the end of 1986 the feasibility study was in progress.

Raw materials balances

The data bank became operational in the second half of 1986.

Production of balance sheets for 1984 and preparation of the 1985 inquiry. Incorporation of the results of the studies of raw materials recovery in 1981-84 in Germany, France and the Netherlands.

Commencement of new studies of raw materials recovery for the United Kingdom and the Netherlands (supplementary study). The results will be available at the end of 1987.

6. Demographic and social statistics

6.1. *Employment and unemployment*

As in previous years, Eurostat continued its efforts to supplement and improve statistical information on the employment and labour market fields.

Integration of the two new Member States formed a major part of work in 1986. In June, on the Commission's initiative, the Employment Ministers of Spain and Portugal organized briefing seminars on employment statistics, thus enabling Eurostat representatives to present Community requirements and legislation as regards employment and unemployment statistics and discuss them with officials and users of statistics in these countries.

A study covering the 12 Member States on 'Measures affecting the labour market and their statistical treatment', abstracts of which it is planned to publish, was completed at the end of 1986. The study was undertaken as part of the close collaboration between the ILO and Eurostat in the field of methodology.

Closer collaboration between the Eurostat Secretariat and the OECD was also introduced this year as regards estimation of usable unemployment rates between countries. In agreement with the national experts, the two organizations aim to establish these rates on a common basis, consisting essentially of the results of the labour force surveys conducted annually since 1983 in all the Member States.

6.2. *Earnings and labour costs*

Basic data for the labour costs survey 1984 was collected in Member States in mid-1985: Due to the delay in the transmission of the data foreseen for the first half of 1986 by some Member States, Eurostat will not be able to publish the results sooner than in the first quarter of 1987.

Exploiting results of the biennial survey on earnings in agriculture (autumn 1986) is under way. The results will be published in the last quarter of 1987.

Calculation of estimates of net earnings — in normal and real terms — of certain categories of manual workers (man, woman, separately, a couple with and without children, with one or two salaries) has been finished. After consultation with the competent working party Eurostat foresees to publish these data within the first semester of 1987.

Statistics of social protection

Development in 1986 of the European system of integrated social protection statistics (Esspros) comprised:

(a) publication of 1984 data of B, D, DK, IR, UK (statistical bulletin 2-86);

(b) end of the analysis of the function 'Promotion of employment' (bulletin 1-86);

(c) exploitation of the study, on four functions (illness, old age, expectation of life, family); the publication of harmonized data broken down by type of benefit is in preparation.

6.3. *Population, education and general social statistics*

Demography

Detailed country tables envisaged in the Community programme for exploitation of the 1981 censuses in member countries have now been received from all countries. A publication of comparative results is being prepared. As far as shorter period population statistics are concerned, the regular annual volume of demographic statistics containing data for member countries and the Community up to end 1984 as well as preliminary 1985 figures, was issued in mid-1986. Such demographic and population data are now also available in the computerized data bank system 'Cronos'. Increasing attention is being given to population projections and analysis of demographic data.

Education and training

Eurostat in 1986, in conjunction with Cedefop (Centre pour le Développement de la Formation professionnelle), made progress on a draft international standard for vocational training statistics but more work has yet to be done.

7. **Agriculture and fisheries**

7.1. *Agricultural accounts and structures*

Economic accounts for agriculture (EAA)

The report on the 1986 sectoral income index (to appear in March 1987) will incorporate a new feature in the form of an analysis of the results by Member State, and this analysis will also include a comparison of absolute incomes in agriculture between the States. Spain was included in the calculation of the 1986 sectoral income index. 'Historical series' data from Spain for the EAA will probably be available in Cronos (COSA domain) in autumn 1987. It will however, be some time before the figures for Portugal can be incorporated. The EAA manual will be translated and published in all the Community languages. A number of methodological questions on the harmonization of the EAA must be sorted out in 1987 (calculation of product-related subsidies and taxes and assessment of stocks and changes in stocks). A study is to establish how productivity profits in agriculture are to be broken down.

Total income of agricultural households

Nine Member States have submitted reports on this problem (reports from Italy and Spain are to follow). Wye College in the UK has been given a study contract to prepare a proposal for a standard method based on these reports, to submit initial results for recent years and to draw up a plan of action for work in hand. These are to be discussed at meetings of the Working Party on Agricultural Accounts on 31 March and 1 April 1987 and on 24/25 June 1987 and of the Agricultural Statistics Committee on 19/20 November 1987.

SPEL model

The SPEL model (Sectoral production and income model for Community agriculture) is currently being implemented on the Community computer in Luxembourg. Work this year will mainly be devoted to the following: (i) incorporating Spain and Portugal in the model, (ii) developing a medium-term version and (iii) reworking the structure (version B). The model is also to be used for short-term income forecasts and simulation calculations at the request of DG VI.

Agricultural price statistics

Figures for Spain will be entered in the EC agricultural price index and absolute price statistics and stored in Cronos (PRAG domain) at the beginning of 1987. New series are being created in PRAG for slaughtered cattle. On the other hand, several price series for products recorded at the wholesale stage are being deleted. A new used manual for PRAG is to be published in the first half of 1987. The manuscript of a methodology for absolute agricultural prices entitled 'A catalogue of characteristics of the agricultural price series stored in Cronos' is near completion. The printed version will probably be available in the second half of 1987.

Fruit survey

The 1987 survey will be carried out in the 12 Member States and will relate to a field of survey including new fruit species.

Statistics in the agri-foodstuffs sector

Work relating to these new statistics began in 1986 and will continue in 1987 especially with the Member States. These new statistics, the objective of which is improved knowledge of value of agricultural products will complement existing industrial statistics.

Farm structure survey retrieval system (FSSRS)

The system for extracting results from the Community farm structure surveys is fully operational. It contains the results of the surveys carried out in 1975, 1979/80, 1983 and, as far as already available, in 1985. Using a TTY version of the system, statistical services and Ministries of Agriculture can connect themselves to the system and have direct access.

Eurofarm

Eurostat envisages the establishment of a new data bank containing individual data on holdings. Technical solutions appropriate to the needs of both users and Member States are being sought by a feasibility study.

Structure of agricultural holdings

1985 farm structure survey

According to the regulation, Member States are required to provide the tabular survey results by not later than 1 March 1987. Eurostat has received results from France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland (situation as at 15 January 1987).

1987 farm structure survey

The 1987 farm structure survey will be conducted between 1 December 1986 and 1 March 1988. On this occasion, Spain and Portugal will participate on the basis of Community legislation for the first time.

Community structure surveys between 1988 and 1997

The appropriate Working Party is at present considering proposals for a regulation covering a series of Community structure surveys to be held between 1988 and 1997 (1989/90, 1993, 1995 and 1997).

Crop production

At its November 1986 meeting, the Agricultural Statistics Committee received a progress report on agricultural major crop-growing regions. The list of local requirements for the establishment of regional data banks — i.e. the type of data, volume, and frequency etc. — was examined in collaboration with the French agricultural services by reference to the Midi-Pyrenees region. Twenty or so regions particularly affected were invited to participate in this project, which is aimed simply at making better use of current statistics on crop production.

The Commission (DG VI-JRC, SOEC) asked a group of international experts (cf. Moulias Report, December 1986) to conduct a pre-evaluation of the use of remote sensing in the Community agricultural information system. The remote sensing land-use feasibility study (measurement of crop growing) was launched in December 1986 and will take 12 months.

Environmental statistics

Eurostat's Working Group on Environmental Statistics met for the first time on 20—21 March 1986, with the aim of promoting awareness among the Member States of the Commission's future needs. An information seminar was held at the end of September on recent developments in methodology for land-use statistics, including remote sensing. Subsequently, on 1 October 1986, Eurostat set up a permanent unit comprising full-time officials and experts.

The working programme, to be incorporated into the 1988 interim statistical programme, is due for finalization in 1987 and should comprise three main aspects:

(i) General environment statistics, in which Eurostat will endeavour to give a statistical dimension to all the Commission's work and an EUR 12 dimension to all matters covered by international bodies.

(ii) Eurostat will help in all the statistical aspects of setting up the general Community data bank on the environment, questions of policy and cartography being mainly matters for DG XI.

(iii) Since the Commission needs specific information at a more detailed level than that of country or region, Eurostat will do the preparatory work necessary for the production of a local inventory along the lines of similar work carried out in France every 10 years.

Fishery statistics

The new enlarged Cronos domain 'Fish' has been introduced and includes data on catches by fishing region of all species and all countries, foreign trade in major groups of fishery products, supply balance sheets for fishery products, fishing fleet and fishermen statistics. The automated updating procedure has been integrated with a view to detecting discrepancies between international data bases.

Particular attention has been placed on the integration of Greek, Portuguese and Spanish data into the Community system of fishery statistics.

The Spanish authorities have submitted their first contribution to the statistical register of Community fishing vessels and discussions with the Portuguese authorities are being held to complete the coverage of Community Member States.

Animal production

Particular attention has been drawn on measuring the effects of the milk quotas since their introduction in April 1984. Several additional meetings were held with a view to carrying out a special survey in this field. The lengthiness of the administrative procedures, both at Commission and at national levels, proved that harmonized Community surveys needed longer preparatory delays.

Contracts had to be signed with some Member States in order to ensure the availability, in due time, of basic information for setting up, early in 1987, a Commission report to the Council on the effects of milk quotas.

Quarterly national accounts in the Community

M. Brogard[1]

Introduction

All the Member States now have systems of annual national accounts, although some are better developed than others. It is generally accepted that presenting macro-economic data for all sections of the economy in a coherent and integrated framework is of great advantage for formulating and implementing economic policy.

These advantages for annual accounts apply just as much to quarterly accounts. Traditionally, the quarterly accounts are used to measure variations in economic activity for a particular country, whereas the annual accounts are more suited to measuring structural changes and are useful for comparing the economic performance of different countries.

Thus quarterly accounts are above all a statistical tool for short-term economic analysis. This article is intended to give no more than a general description of the systems of the quarterly national accounts which users of short-term statistics can obtain from Eurostat.

[1] M. Brogard is an administrator in the division 'Economic accounts' of Eurostat

Historical background and sources

Historically, the first quarterly accounts appeared in the United States of America, a few years after annual accounts. In Europe, on the other hand, quarterly national accounts have been introduced only recently, except in the United Kingdom. It seems that most of the Member States wanted first of all to consolidate their annual accounts before venturing into the new territory of quarterly accounts.

Table 1 below lists the Member States which currently have regularly published quarterly accounts whether of public or private origin.

Our main trading partners, the United States and Japan, have been added for comparison.

It must be stressed that for some countries data is available from more than one source (Germany and Italy). In the case of Belgium, the quarterly accounts are calculated by a private institution (Université Libre de Bruxelles) and are actually compiled monthly. It should be pointed out that almost all the Member States which do not officially publish quarterly data do none the less, for the purposes of forecasting and of monitoring their national economies, draw up a set of macro-economic indicators similar to quarterly national accounts.

Concepts and methods used

As regards the concepts used, there is no difference between setting up a system of quarterly national accounts and setting up a system of annual accounts. All Community countries have enough basic statistical data to do so. As with annual accounts, there are three ways of approaching the construction of quarterly accounts: from output, expenditure

Table 1

Member States and main economic partners with a system of quarterly national accounts

Country	Body responsible	First published
Germany	DIW	1951
	Bundesbank	1968
	Statistisches Bundesamt	1978
Belgium	ULB (Dulbea)	1970
Greece	Ministry of National Economy	1981
France	Insee	1970
Italy	ISCO	1968
	Istat	1976
Netherlands	CBS	1986
United Kingdom	CSO	1957
United States of America	Bureau of Economic Analysis	1942
Japan	Economic Planning Agency	1958

and income. Depending on the statistical material available, each country relies most heavily on one or other of these methods for estimating its quarterly GDP.

Among Community countries GDP is generally estimated from the point of view of output, i.e. by aggregating the value added of all the economic sectors; while in the United States and Japan, factor income and final uses of GDP have been chosen. Only the United Kingdom calculates its GDP in all three ways. Table 2 shows the approach adopted by each country. It should be noted that in almost all countries more than one method is used to draw up a full set of accounts.

Table 2

Approach chosen for the calculation of quarterly GDP

Body responsible		Output	Expenditure	Income
Insee	(F)	X	X	X
Statistisches Bundesamt	(D)	X		
(Bundesbank)	(D)			
Istat	(I)	X		
CSO	(UK)	X	X	X
Ministry of National Economy	(GR)	X		
ULB (Dulbea)	(B)	X		
CBS	(NL)	X		
Bureau of Economic Analysis	(USA)		X	X
Economic Planning Agency	(JAP)		X	X

As regards methodology, the Eurostat staff responsible for quarterly accounts are preparing a publication, due to appear at the beginning of 1988, on the national methods used in the Member States.

Certain basic requirements must be met before a system of quarterly accounts can be set up. Firstly, there must be reliable and fairly detailed annual accounts, since quarterly accounts are always readjusted on the basis of annual accounts. Secondly, if there are not relevant indicators or quarterly surveys in certain economic sectors (e.g. Agriculture, Non-market services), the way quarterly data is derived from annual data can be somewhat arbitrary.

Data storage and publications

Although the Eurostat department responsible for economic accounts is aware of the problems involved in compiling quarterly statistics and of the shaky nature of certain indicators, it nevertheless collects data available from the quarterly accounts for the countries listed in Table 2. There is no legal obligation to supply these national data but it is felt that the improved coverage of short-term economic information resulting from these statistics outweighed the shortcomings mentioned above and justified making them available to economic analysts.

The main indicators involved are gross domestic product, private and public consumption, gross fixed capital formation, changes in stocks, and imports and exports seasonally adjusted by countries at both current and constant prices. On the basis of these, data on value added at current and constant prices, broken down by type of activity agriculture, industry, services), are also collected where available in unadjusted and seasonally adjusted form.

These quarterly series of macro-economic indicators are stored in the Eurostat databank Cronos-ICG, Collection 17. They are published every month in *'Eurostatistics'*, Chapter 1 'National accounts'. In addition, since 1986 a specialized publication entitled *'Quarterly national accounts'* gives, in the form of growth rates, the trends in GDP and its components both in volume and in prices.

Problems outstanding

There are still a number of major problems regarding these statistics, and the absence of any legal constraint makes it difficult for Eurostat to solve them. Firstly, the geographical coverage remains inadequate. The fact that the Spanish INE is due to start drawing up quarterly accounts fairly soon will bring some improvement. The total quarterly data on GDP in the Community will then represent 95% of annual EUR 12 GDP, as against 87% at present.

Secondly, the lack of common methodology at Community level means that the data are not harmonized and that it is difficult to compare aggregates from one country to another. This lack of homogeneity is minimized if the data are used for short-term economic analysis of individual countries.

Lastly, if a set of seasonally adjusted indicators is to be set up for the Community as a whole (EUR 12), the delicate problem arises as to how to carry out the seasonal adjustment. Should we aggregate national data adjusted by different methods or should we seasonally adjust raw national data by means of a single and thus homogeneous model (e.g. Dainties)? At present the first method is used.

Despite their imperfections and the problems outstanding, quarterly national accounts are an irreplaceable tool for short-term economic analysis. Owing to the coherent framework and the speed with which data is supplied, this macro-economic indicator provides valuable information for forecasting and monitoring the economy as a whole. This information is even more important during periods of sluggish economic growth, when any slight change in the trend requires the appropriate adjustments in order to maintain stable economic expansion.

The consumer price indices in Spain and Portugal

J. Nijenhuis[1]

Even before the entrance of Spain and Portugal as members of the Community on 1 January 1986, there existed for nearly 10 years a very good cooperation between Division B3 of Eurostat and the services responsible for the CPI in these two countries.

[1] J. Nijenhuis is an administrator in the division 'Price surveys and consumer price indices' of Eurostat.

This cooperation allowed Eurostat to publish the Spanish and Portuguese indices in the framework of the same classification which was used for the countries of EUR 10, the general index, the indices for the 8 main groups as well as for 20 sub-groups.

For both countries monthly and annual data according to this classification are available starting from 1976 in Eurostat data base Cronos.

Price evolution during the last 10 years

Consumer prices in Spain and Portugal were subject to very sharp rises during the last 10 years.

Between 1976 and 1986 they evolved as follows (annual averages):

Year	Spain		Portugal	
	Index	Annual Inflation	Index	Annual Inflation
1976	100	—	100	—
1977	125	25	127	27
1978	149	20	156	23
1979	173	16	193	24
1980	199	16	225	17
1981	228	15	270	20
1982	261	14	331	23
1983	293	12	415	25
1984	326	11	534	29
1985	355	9	939	20
1986	386	9	714	12

At present (beginning 1987) the annual inflation rate for Spain is about 6% and that for Portugal about 9%.

Characteristics of the Spanish and Portuguese indices

I. SPAIN

The national index for Spain is compiled and published by the Unidad Technico de Precios de Consumo del Instituto Nacional de Estadisticas in Madrid.

Type: Monthly index of the Laspeyres-type

Title: Indice de precios de consumo

Base: 1983 = 100

Source of weight coefficients: Family expenditure survey between April 1980 and March 1981

Sample of the family expenditure survey: 24 000 private households with an annual income between 322 575 and 2 000 000 pesetas (covers 79% of the households).

Weights per group:

Food	330
Clothing and footwear	87
Housing	186
Household goods and services	74
Medical care	24
Transport	144
Culture	70
Others	85
Total	1 000

Number of articles: 428

Number of outlets: about 9 800

Number of prices: about 146 000

Geographical distribution

The 18 'Comunidades autónomas' (autonomous communities) are subdivided into 122 'Conjuntos primarios' (primary regions). These 'Conjuntos primarios' are further split into 417 'Zonas mercantiles' (commercial zones) of three different types:

I Urbano — Capital (Urban — capital),

II Urbano — no Capital (Urban — non-capital),

III No urbano (Non-urban).

Frequency of price survey

A. *Articles with 'precio nacional' (national prices)*

Articles with 'precio nacional' are considered to be all articles which have the same price all over the country, e.g. tobacco, medicines, motor cars, public transport, energy products, protected rents.

These prices are calculated by the INE from different sources e.g. the 'Boletin Oficial del Estado'.

B. *Food*

(1) For perishable food products:

(i) four surveys per month in the commercial zones type II,

(ii) two surveys per month in the commercial zones type II and III.

(2) For less perishable food products:

one survey per month in all commercial zones.

C. *Housing*

(1) Rented dwellings without fixed rents:

one survey per month for one-third of the sample of 60 000 dwellings

(2) Owned-occupied dwellings:

One survey per month according to a sample of building companies and estate agencies

(3) Dwellings with 'protected' rents:

Rents change only once a year and are

considered as 'precios nacionales' (one survey each year).

D. *Other articles*

All other prices are collected once per year, except for prices of electric households equipment which are collected each quarter.

Change of reporting unit

When a shop is no longer representative or when it has ceased trading, it will be replaced by a shop of the same type with comparable price level, customers, location, etc.

Substitution of articles

An article is substituted only when it is no longer bought by consumers. The new item should have the same characteristics and the same quality.

II. PORTUGAL

The national Portuguese index is compiled and published by the Instituto Nacional de Estatistica in Lisbon.

Type: Monthly index of the Laspeyres type

Title: Indice de precios no consumider

Base: 1976 = 100

Source of weight coefficients: Family expenditure survey 1973/74

Sample of family expenditure survey: 17 280 family households with 2 to 5 consumer units (ILO classification) in urban areas, with an annual income between 30 000 and 180 000 escudos, of which the head is an employee (excluding senior personnel, higher grade technicians and career military personnel) or a pensioner (covers 70% of the population).

Weights per group:

Food and drinks	496
Clothing and footwear	94
Housing	123
Household goods and services	106
Others	181
Total	1 000

Number of articles: 276

Number of outlets: about 3 500

Number of prices: about 18 000

Geographical distribution

There are 18 'centros urbanos', of which Lisbon is subdivided into 6 'zonas' and Porto in 3 'zonas'.

The total number of 'centros urbanos' is 25.

Collection of prices

During the last full week of each month by agents of the INE.

Frequency of survey

One survey per month for food products, drinks and products of current use.

For 'fresh vegetables and fresh food' there is a supplementary survey by post on the 5th and 15th of each month.

One survey per quarter for all others items, except:

(1) Education: once per year at the beginning of the school year;

(2) Football: once per year at the beginning of the season;

(3) Goods and services with fixed prices: every time when prices change.

Change of reporting unit

If an outlet has to be replaced by another, the new one must have exactly the same characteristics (location, price level, customers, etc.)

Substitution of articles

An article is replaced by another one, when it was discontinued or when it underwent modifications which affected its price.

NB: the CPI for Portugal does not include rents.

An international cargo classification for transport statistics (UN/ECE Recommendation No 21)

B. Wilson[1]

Introduction

1. Statistics of the transport of goods moving in international trade are derived from two sources: customs administrations and transport enterprises. Both sources have commodity classifications which have historically enabled governments to raise revenue and protect or subsidize domestic producers on a selective basis and transport enterprises to offer their services in separate markets in order to optimize capacity and to maximize receipts (sacks of coffee being charged more than grain, bottles of whisky more than beer).

2. Growth in international trade and diversification of government policy objectives have led to increasingly detailed tariff classifications whereas transport price schedules are subject, under competition, to continual simplification, even where they are still calculated upon *ad valorum* or 'specific' bases (per unit of quantity, weight, or volume). So-called 'revolutions' in transport (containers and other forms of combined transport) and in communications have induced innovations in the philosophy of pricing and the management of data in the many transport enterprises which are now switching from 'commodity-related' to 'cost-related' pricing and from documents to electronic messages. There are, inevitably, statistical consequences.

European classifications derived from customs tariffs

3. NST, the three-digit commodity nomenclature for EEC statistics of transport was established by a Commission Recommendation in 1961. It was based upon, and defined by, the six-digit nomenclature of goods for external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (Nimexe). Goods were classified as far as possible by 'their nature, processing stage, method of transportation and total tonnages transported into 176 NST headings which corresponded completely with the 170 headings of the commodity classification for transport statistics in Europe (CSTE) of UN/ECE, and with 6 additional headings primarily of interest to the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). The CSTE is itself derived from the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) of the UNSO.

4. In 1967, 21 intermediate NST commodity groups (of which 8 were of ECSC interest) were introduced in the context of statistics of transport between 57 EEC regions. In 1968, NST was revised into a hierarchical structure of 10 chapters, 52 main groups and 176 headings (NST/R). Compatibility with CSTE at the intermediate level was reached in 1978 by subdividing the 10 NST/R chapters and the 20 CSTE groups into 24 new classes, common to both, which were incorporated into three EEC Directives for statistics of the

[1] B. Wilson is head of the sector 'Statistical methods and classifications — Special assignments on transport' of Eurostat.

transport of goods by road, rail and inland waterway.

5. Although fourth-digit subdivisions have been introduced independently (and incompatibly) into NST/R by certain Member States to provide extra classes (up to 481 commodities) for specific national purposes, revisions of both NST/R and CSTE are now envisaged only to up-date them (after introduction of the harmonized system into their respective parent trade classifications). This is necessary to enable, at national and international level, analyses by mode of transport to be made (or continue to be made) of external trade statistics.

Classifications derived from transport enterprises

6. Commercial documents under various names ('consignment note', 'waybill', 'bill of lading', 'manifest') confirm contracts of carriage between an individual carrier and his clients and include a description of the goods carried for purposes of identification by the consignee (especially with negotiable documents), proof of performance, insurance claims etc. Even when covered by international agreement, such documents contain only a very general 'description in common use of the nature of the goods and the method of packing....' (Convention on the contract for the international carriage of goods by road, CMR, Geneva 1956).

7. These documents, with non-standard descriptions, have supplied the basic data for statistical goods classifications (sometimes needing expensive coding procedures). There are exceptionally two international, industry-wide standard classifications. The International Union of Railways (UIC), founded in 1922, has a four-digit standard goods classification (NCM) for independent commercial negotiation by members. The International Air Transport Association (IATA), established in 1946 with a rate-fixing role on behalf of its 100 or so active tariff coordination members, introduced a four digit code description for specific commodity aircargo to be charged by weight (actual weight or a conversion from volume). By contrast, road transport is much less concentrated in almost every country and maritime liner conferences operate on separate route(s) within specified geographical limits independently.

Innovations in transport techniques and charging

8. The use of 'unit loads', 'freight containers' and of other forms of combined transport (pallets, roll-on/roll-off vessels, piggyback railcars, ship-borne barges etc.) has introduced both practical and conceptual problems into transport statistics.

9. In May 1948, when Transport Ferry Service Ltd (TFS) introduced ex-army landing craft for the first commercial roll-on/roll-off (ro/ro) service between Britain and Northern Ireland, this operation was not dissimilar to the walk-on/walk-off technique through side doors for horses of the 12th Century Crusaders at Aigues-Mortes. TFS however followed up with a revolution in charging (per type of vehicle and per linear foot in place of per ton of goods). These charges removed all commodity detail from the TFS company accounts and from the dues of the two terminal ports concerned (the traditional source of port authority statistics and of national statistics).

10. In 1966, the first trans-Atlantic container arrived at Rotterdam but it was several years before commodity-based freight rates of ocean liner conferences were joined by 'freight-all kinds' (FAK) rates per container introduced initially by non-conference liner companies. Substantial and increasing quantities of aircargo are now carried at flat rates in various aircraft unit load devices (ULDs). In January 1987, the Nederlandsche Spoorwegen

and the Deutsche Bundesbahn introduced between their two countries a new goods tariff which contains charges per railway wagon which are independent of the nature of the goods and the weight of the load carried.

11. Increasing quantities of goods transported in large containers or in lorries by ro/ro ferry have in practice to be classified for statistical purposes into residual, 'miscellaneous' categories of commodities ('not classified according to kind'). This has led to proposals to adapt the NST/R and CSTE classifications to current needs by sub-dividing such categories.

12. Fundamental conceptual questions are raised as to whether returnable 'freight' containers, lorries and other forms of carriers' equipment, should be reported within a commodity-classified statistical system as 'goods transport', especially when a high proportion are empty units not carrying any commodities. Passenger-accompanied motorcars on the same ro/ro ferries differ from cars in international import/export trade not only by being 'used' vehicles but by being engaged in the tourist trade. Distortions arise in statistics of the tonnage of 'goods' carried because of the inclusion/exclusion of the not inconsiderable tare weights of the vehicles (even when they were empty of goods). Modal-split analyses and goods traffic forecasts require a conceptual basis which avoids both double-counting and under-counting (of tonnes, 'unit' loads and kilometers) when transport is combined simultaneously instead of consecutively (as in traditional transport 'links'). Traditional transport statistics are uni-modal.

13. In 1978, the transport statisticians in the EEC and the UN/ECE agreed that instead of minor adaptions to NRT/R and CSTE, a separate classification for cargo-handling charactistics was required. The carrier often does not know, or even need to know the detailed description of the commodities; but he is always concerned with the characteristics affecting loading, unloading and handling en route (whether dangerous, packed in bulk, sacks, drums, on pallets etc.) In 1979, the governments of Belgium and the Netherlands collaborated to produce a one-digit classification, called 'mode of appearance', for statistics of the four inland modes of transport. Independently the Shipping Division of Unctad developed a one-digit 'broad packing code' and a two-digit 'detailed packing code' for port statistics and performance indicators. In 1981, the EEC transmitted to the UN/ECE a draft one-digit cargo classification applicable to all modes of transport.

International trade documentation

14. In 1976, the UN/ECE Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures agreed on a new work item: to develop a packaging code as a more identifiable link between documents (which require entries for 'nature of goods' and 'type of packing') and consignments as they appear during transport across the world. The UIC, together with the Organization for the Collaboration of Railways (OSZhd), was already developing packaging codes for rail transport whilst the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) was similarly engaged for maritime transport. UIC and ICS, thereafter worked as co-rapporteurs on terminology, definitions and diagrams of packages for both modes of transport, presenting a comprehensive report in 1981. They recommended a three-tiered system of four-digits, with a one-digit code to represent 'unit loads', two-digits for 57 package types and the final digit for type of packaging material.

15. The ECE realized that there was wide international interest in this project among bodies such as the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), International Road Transport Union (IRU), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Civil Airports Association (ICAA) as well as other regional groupings. Their secretariats were

invited to collaborate with UIC and ICS to achieve optimum harmonization of the various classifications (and if possible also the codes) which had been independently developed, some in considerable detail. Between 1981 and 1985, five inter-secretariat meetings, serviced by the Trade Division of the UN/ECE and chaired by the SOEC, were held in Geneva to examine the different purposes and concepts.

16. Agreement was reached finally on the following basic principles:

(a) coverage of all goods in all modes of transport;

(b) classification by the most external form ('appearance');

(c) identification of 'preferred terms', including the term 'cargo' for the load carried by a means of transport;

(d) omission of packages for 'dangerous' goods, (since danger was a characteristic of the goods, not the packing and could be present also in unpacked goods);

(e) structured, numeric three-code system for:
  (i) cargo units (one-digit),
  (ii) package types (one-digit, optionally two-digits),
  (iii) and packaging materials (one-digit);

(f) classification of package types by shape, with optional sub-classification by size;

(g) application to be either separately or in combination;

(h) application to be either simple (i.e. only the most external form, or the 'first level of appearance') or complex (multiple forms, with several characters from each code used simultaneously as nested data elements e.g. a code of 6, 2, 4, 9 for ro/ro ferry traffic to correspond to a cargo of a *lorry*, carrying a *container*, with a *palletized* load of *sacks* of coffee).

UN/ECE Recommendation No 21

17. The UN/ECE Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures accepted these proposals in principle in March 1986, together with a two-character alphabetic code for common package names (prepared by the UN/ECE secretariat) and diagrams of cargo types (prepared by the SOEC), and published them as Recommendation 21 'Codes for types of Cargo, packages, and packaging materials (with complementary codes for package names) (Document ECE/TRADE/158).

18. With standardized concepts, classes and codes available for the basic transport and trade data sources, it is now possible, by employing unambiguous rules of application for the codes, to introduce for all modes of transport a new statistical classification by 'mode of appearance' to indicate cargo-handling characteristics. As the multi-national informatics, industry now approaches agreement on syntax rules and 'nested' data elements in international trade, the transport statistician has the conceptual framework to record meaningfully and unambiguously the corresponding cargo flows by 'net' tonnes, 'gross' tonnes (inclusive of packaging) or by 'gross-gross' tonnes (inclusive of tare) according to the type of cargo and the desired 'level of appearance'. Within this framework, whilst it will be possible to establish appropriate sub-divisons, (e.g. by size for the ubiquitous, multi-modal 'container' or by type for 'ro/ro' traffic), it will also be possible to quantify directly 'liquid bulks', 'dry bulks' (predominant in sea transport), and 'pallets' (most widely used for road transport) for example.

Conclusion

19. International agreement has now been reached on a new one-digit codification for forms of cargo which is of major interest to

the transport industries and their clients (shippers, consignees, forwarders, agents, etc.), to manufacturers of means of transport as well as suppliers of cargo-handling equipment and supporting services to transport (ports, airports and warehouses). Transport statisticians also welcome the advent of a basic cargo classification with standard rules of application.

20. The European Council, in its policy objective of achieving a single, large market by 1992, declared that '. . . . steps be taken to complete the internal market, including implementation of European standards . . . .' (Dublin, December 1984). The establishment of such standards within the EEC and the UN/ECE, requires close collaboration from many economic sectors and professional disciplines, including statisticians, in the context of a world-wide programme of work on the facilitation of commercial procedures and information exchange between trading partners.

UN/ECE Recommendation No 21

Annex II

Cargo type, one-digit code: description, with pictorial symbols

Code

0 No cargo unit (liquid bulk goods): *includes* (i) liquids (ii) liquefied gases (iii) molten or slurried solids, suitable for continuous mechanical handling, for transport by pipeline or loose in a hold, tank or other compartment integral to a means of transport.

1 No cargo unit (solid bulk goods): *includes* (i) fine powders (ii) granular particles (iii) large, lumpy, dry solids, suitable for continuous mechanical handling, for transport by fixed installations (other than pipeline) or loose in a hold or other compartment integral to a means of transport.

2 Large freight containers: Goods loaded in/on a freight container 20ft (6 m) or more in external length; *includes* lift van, swap/swop body, flat, moveable tank or similar articles of transport equipment.

3 Other freight containers: Goods loaded in/on a freight container less than 20 ft (6 m) in external length; *includes* (i) rigid intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) (ii) aircraft Unit load devices (ULDs); *excludes* (i) air mode pallets (ii) sea or land mode box-, tank-, post-, rack-pallets not exceeding 1.25 m^2 deck area.

4 Palletized: Goods loaded on a deck; *include* (i) disposable one-way pallets (ii) sea or land mode box-, tank-, post-, rack-pallets not exceeding 1.25 m^2 deck area (iii) slip-sheets (iv) air mode pallets (v) bricks, ingots, etc. suitably assembled for fork-lift truck handling.

5 Pre-slung: Goods (one or more items) supplied with a sling (or slings) of various materials (natural/artificial fibre, steel wire etc.) and of various designs (loop, ring, cloverleaf etc.); *includes* (i) 'packaged' timer (ii) Flexible intermediate bulk containers (FIBCs).

6 Mobile self-propelled units: *includes* (i) road motor vehicles (lorries, buses, cars) and accompanying trailers, semi-trailers, caravans engaged in goods/passenger transport (ii) motorized road, agricultural, industrial, etc. vehicles moving in trade (iii) live animals 'on the hool' (iv) passengers on foot.

7 Other mobile units: non-self-propelled vehicles and equipment on wheels; *includes* (i) unaccompanied trailers, semi-trailers railwagons, ship-borne barges engaged in goods transport (ii)

caravans and other road, agricultural, industrial etc. vehicles (iii) ship-borne port-to-port trailers.

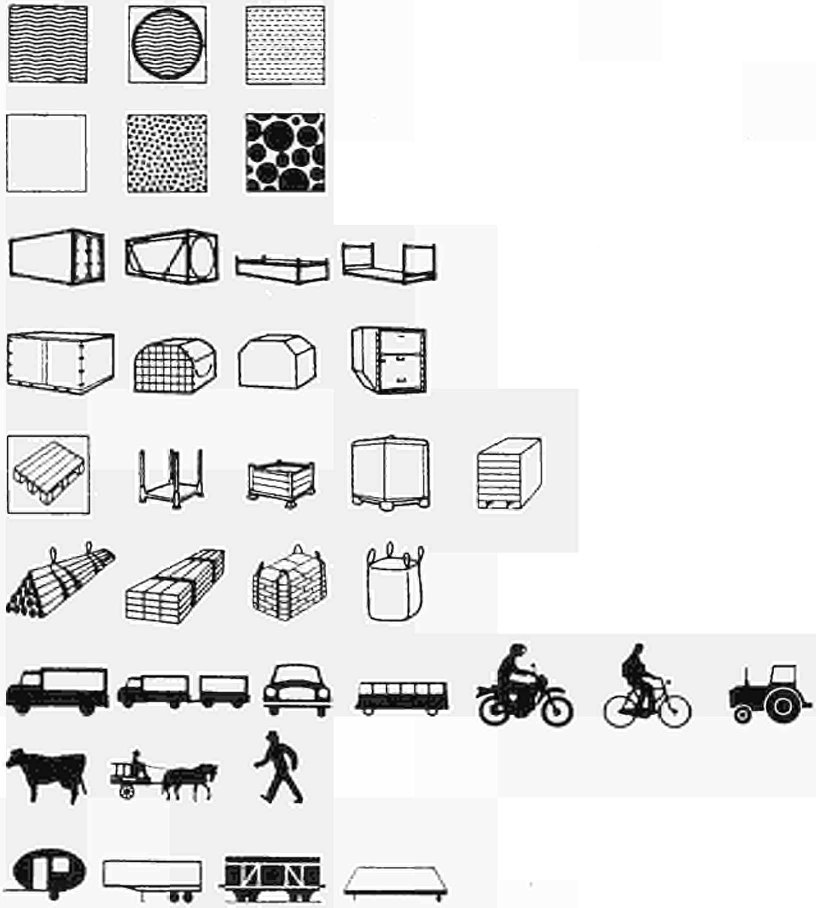
8 Reserved

9 Other cargo types; all cargo not elsewhere enumerated (i.e. the residual types of cargo carried in transport: 'break-bulk' or 'general' cargo, e.g. boxes, drums, bags etc. and loos, unpacked items such as pipes, rods, etc.).

Annex II

Cargo type diagrams

Liquid bulk	0	
Solid bulk	1	
Large freight containers	2	
Other freight containers	3	
Palletized	4	
Pre-slung	5	
Mobile self-propelled	6	
Other mobile units	7	
Other cargo types	9	



Eurostat news pays tribute to Mr Johannes Rackau who on 31 October 1986 retired from the Statistical Office of the EC where he was for many years illustrator and produced thousands of charts and graphs. He also designed the Eurostat logo.

Taban: simplicity and comparison

A. Cunningham [1]

The previous paper in *Eurostat news* (1/1987) stressed the need for intelligible geometric representation of structures, and so, for approximation by no more than three dimensions. That topic will provide the main theme for later discussion, but the present note, an aside in an issue of *Eurostat news* with limited space, is concerned with two ideas which permeate that discussion, the idea of *simplicity*, which is our ambition, and that of *comparison*, which is the most elemental operation of thought which we use.

One recalls that the basic task of official statisticians is to produce a simplified description, which will economize thought. It is now worth recalling just what we do, and noting an important difference in the points of view of people concerned with data, between an inductive and a deductive approach[2]. There are of course, usually losses of information in any simplification, but we commonly find the activity worthwhile and even necessary.

Simplicity

In order to simplify one uses one or more of four standard techniques:

(i) apply a threshold (in order to eliminate things with which we cannot usefully or easily deal).

(ii) move 'up the tree', i.e. to a higher, (a coarser) level of categorization, to aggregate, which is the basic task of statisticians, and which in simple cases involves an operation of averaging or totalling: in the general case the operation is one of weighted averaging, and one cannot avoid the question of what are the weights. Unweighted averages are simply equi-weighted averages;

(iii) sort. The very least which sorting does is to bring together identical cases. Almost any order can be exploited, but a common order is that of decreasing order of size. This facilitates the use of thresholds and the choice of thresholds;

(iv) eliminate special cases, treating everybody and everything as the same even when they are not. The two great inventions which help to eliminate special cases are the concepts of zero and of the null, or empty set. In favourable cases this type of simplification need not imply loss of information.

Comparison

Comparison is the elementary and fundamental operation which controls all others; its output is a difference, or discrepancy. In simple cases the operation yields a Boolean variable: a 'yes-no answer'. In complex cases, if the operation can produce a number of a

[1] A. Cunningham is a principal administrator in the directorate 'Energy and industrial statistics' of Eurostat.

[2] An inductive approach is based on data, and on repeated comparisons: a deductive approach is based on the algebraic form of a criterion. The mathematicians' attitude 'I cannot understand all those numbers: I must see the formula' brings out the difference. There is luckily now a half-way-house provided by computer programs, and the computing of numerical examples. Like epistemology, some mathematics has become an experimental science.

cardinal scale, and one which does not depend on the size of the data sets compared, then so much the better.

Our aim is:

(i) to seek a synthesis, or unification in the idea of the *information* of a comparison, and of the *average information of a set of comparisons.* The concept here, of information can be related to the concepts of information theory widely used elsewhere, but does not depend on them.

(ii) to find unity in a single measure of discrepancy; good terms for these discrepancies are information, divergence, deviance, discriminant information: we choose to use the term 'information'.

We are interested in a global measure of the differences, or discrepancies. It is an average measure, not a total, and may therefore be compared between data sets of different sizes. *It can be thought of as the weighted average of the percentage differences between the elements of corresponding structures*[1].

Using Occam's razor, we deploy only the concepts which are necessary: these boil down to the concepts of:

(a) the information of a comparison, i.e. of a relationship,

(b) of banal or ever present comparisons, which allow information about a relationship to be treated as a property of a data set.

The problem we examine is how to handle comparisons systematically and as a whole: our answer is based on observation of contemporary good practice which people use to approximate, or to model the reality behind their data. One is commonly concerned with the differences between A and B, where A and B are *vectors, or arrays of mass variables,* or non-negative numbers.

Comparisons are of conformal sets:

(i) They are essentially binary operations, and asymmetric, and are non-commutative. A compared with B is not the same as B compared with A, and in this asymmetry lies much of our difficulty. On the other hand the internal structures of the sets may be irrelevant, provided they are the same. The comparisons may be of data and data (O—O, or Observation with Observtion) or data and some model (O—E, or Observation with Expectation). We are not here concerned with where these models come from, except to point out that there are certain obvious, banal, or everpresent models, such as:

(a) the uniform distribution,

(b) cells pro-rated from row and column totals. These allow us to define cross-entropy, as the characteristic of a relationship, and entropy as the property of a data set, being calculated in terms of the cross-entropy of a banal comparison;

(ii) in consequence two sets of weights are relevant. The weights from each side of the comparison are not identical, but they are often rather similar. We often symmetrize the asymmetrical, i.e. we decompose a square asymmetric matrix into a symmetric and an antisymmetric matrix. We keep the first to work with, and throw away the second, or antisymmetric matrix;

(iii) we have to deal with sets of such contrasts: the problem is of how to organize them systematically, as in the fields of index numbers, of numerical classifications, and of experimental design. The 12 non-trivial comparisons possible of the four sets of expenditures in the

[1] The actual formula is of course a weighted average of logarithms of ratios, or differences of logarithms. It is identical to deviance, or Nelder's generalized variance, but in our common situations it is sensible to quote the mean and not the total deviances.

classic index number problem, (namely baskets P0Q0, P0Q1, P1Q0, P1Q1) is particularly interesting and leads to the index decomposition theorems[1];

(iv) *conditions are established by comparisons:* the operation called 'pattern matching' is only an elaborate comparison. The comparisons must naturally be fair comparisons[2].
Although in practice one can often obtain unit fair comparisons, the difficulty is to amalgamate them, to handle whole sets of them. The basic procedure is calculating weighted averages. The paradigm is to be found in the 'Index number problem', and the long-established recognition of the inevitability of the two sets of weights, which follows from the non-commutative nature of the operation of comparison. The problem is found in its pure form with the unordered comparisons of index numbers over time. The ICP project to estimate purchasing power parities, and the relative sizes of economies in real terms provide classic examples. An important current example is computer bench marking;

(v) we require both a *global* measure of the size of divergence or discrepancy, and an indication of where the more important of these differences are *localized.* People have intuitive ideas about the strain of a comparison and of the distance between structures, which can be quantified in terms of information. It helps the intuition if the two questions of how much information there is and where it is located are separated[3];

(vi) we have thresholds, whose values depend on circumstances, and must be determined in particular cases. What are these thresholds? Commonly heard phrases are:

'Where do you draw the line?' 'where are the boundaries?'

The arguments used to justify the decisions often run like the following:

(a) 'Because, if not ..., then ...', or ...

(b) 'It is in the middle', (being probably a geometric mean of two bounds which are probably the only information in which one has reasonable confidence).

(c) 'If you want to simplify then this is the minimum which must be thrown away', the price which must be paid.

If there is no internal evidence available about suitable thresholds set by the noise level, then the procedures available are:

(a) to pool the highest order interactions, defining the information which must be sacrificed if any simplification is to be made;

(b) to invert the problem by deciding on the size of the table and then to present a table, which, within those limits retains the maximum possible information. This inversion of the problem is common in practice, particularly in the field of error

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[1] Their significance is that they convert well-known inequalities into equations, and provided an analytical expression for the differences between Fisher and Theil-Tornquist indices, and a rationale for 'minimally modified' Theil Tornquist, or Divisia indices which have a claim to be theoretically desirable indices and which preserve the ratios of expenditures and factor reversibility.

[2] Fair comparisons can be difficult, for: 'When reforms are discussed, one thing in theory is compared with another thing in practice', and the compromises forced by any implementation are ignored: the theoretical promise on which the reform was sold, will subsequently be downgraded by the 'noise, dirt, and leaks' which characterize the real world, and which emerge as any dream is implemented by an institution. The overall characteristics are those of a bias and not of random or sampling errors.

[3] The components of the information, positive and negative numbers which sum to a positive number can usefully be divided by their own root mean square to give their *'Surprise-value'.* Whatever the overall information of the comparison one can reasonably neglect cells which are less than two or three times their own RMS. Of course on a first inspection, the large *Surprise-values* will probably turn out to be errors. On a second inspection they may deserve some interpretative comment.

checking. One decides, roughly, how many error reports one thinks could be handled, and then sets the thresholds accordingly to generate that number. The results may be imperfect, but one knows that one has used one's resources to good advantage;

(c) to use external evidence to define a difference which constitutes a material difference; we discuss elsewhere what this might be, and suggest that differences of 1% should now be regarded as material. 'Economics is becoming a two-digit science'.

The external criteria of thresholds, of asking what differences would make a difference are, commonly, more important. There may be some idea of *importance* of thresholds: that nothing less than X is important, or 'material' as auditors put it.

One rarely knows individual sampling errors, but often has some general idea of an average coefficient of sampling variation: this can provide a threshold for rolling up decisions.

Our world is often:

nearly symmetric;

nearly hierarchic[1];

nearly reversible[2]

arguments are *nearly* circular.

All these 'nearly's bring out the non-stochastic nature of our main approximations, and that the models which derive from them are 'nearly right'.

[1] Life is only *nearly* hierarchical. Entities are not always tidily nested, Russian doll style, as we find it convenient to pretend, in order to preserve the rule that the total must equal the sum of the parts.

[2] Even when the operations are technically reversible, there is commonly a price to be paid: the phenomenon of hysteresis is common.

Why are some things easy? Why are some things difficult?

In so far as our tasks are easy it is largely where relations are symmetric, and commutative and where we can express operations in terms of linear algebra. Where they are difficult it is often because the relations are asymmetric, and operations are non commutative. Approximation is often a symmetrization.

The 'real world' is bedevilled by asymmetries, and the non-commutativities, the dual relationships which we may feel, but do not always express clearly and explicitly. We try to bring them out by methods which are dialectical, and non-mathematical in nature. In the dialectical argument there is plenty of scope for accurate instincts and common sense in particular situations to rescue us from the implications of an incomplete theory.

One is lucky if:

uninteresting systematic errors can be designed out, or randomized out. Time, in particular is a factor which cannot be randomized out.

you can change your mind. Only irreversible actions really count, and deserve the status of 'decisions'.

there are no zeroes in the data to generate infinities on division, or on taking logs.

significance tests can be applied, and the degrees of freedom are sufficient to provide useful internal thresholds for evidence. Our thresholds are not provided automatically, and like all the other parameters of economics they will change with circumstances. They are, if you like that term, *system determined.*

Any thing which brings out fundamental constraints and the permanent, or inherent limitations is important, (making clear what cannot be done, and which is therefore not worth trying). Difficulties arise with asymmetries, non-commutativities, and measurement errors proper (i.e. those associated with proxy variables, the distinction between system variables and observed variables, and in disaggregation). Self conscious behaviour, and prophecies both self fulfilling and self defeating, complicate the logic[1].

Are the figures disturbed, and even falsified by the fact of observation, and is the behaviour of the system then no longer determined by natural or unself-conscious forces, but by a self-conscious desire to exploit the system, as the 'wide boys' learn to 'play the rules' to their own advantage, in order to manipulate the conclusions which will be drawn from the figures? This 'observation effect', which has analogies a) with what physicists call the uncertainty principle, and b) with the strange behaviour of some systems with strong feedbacks[2]. The point is that *this is not some special difficulty*, or 'one of those things' which makes some situations uniquely difficult and special, *but a routinely ordinary problem* to be expected all the time.

[1] It is a characteristic of control systems that they eliminate the evidence, which if it were not so eliminated would justify the existence of that system. There may never be an unambiguous economic justification for having the apparatus of official statistics, but we need not apologise for this.

[2] An economic example is the M3 money supply, which, once people started looking at it, ceased to behave in the way in which economists said that it would behave. One difference between the natural and the human sciences is that, in the former, human thought does not influence what happens, and still less does thought reflecting on thought in a self conscious manner. It is not surprising that there are no stable parameters in economics. On the other hand, there is a great deal of inertia: 'the same as last time' is rarely a very silly forecast, and Box-Jenkins models, which exploit inertia in a sophisticated way are sometimes excellent.

Parliamentary questions

Written Question No 901/86
by Mr Thomas Raftery (PPE—IRL)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(87/C 31/46)

Subject: Regional statistics

1. In many areas of Community activity, it is only possible to obtain statistics at the level of the Member State. Would the Commission not agree that in many cases it would be useful to have a regional breakdown of these figures?

2. The periodic report on the regions has been a useful start, but would the Commission not further agree that, in cooperation with the public services in the Member States, it would be possible to incorporate to a much greater extent regional statistics in all Community publications?

Answer given by Mr Pfeiffer
on behalf of the Commission

1. The Commission agrees with the honourable Member that it would be useful to have a regional breakdown of many more of the statistics established at national level.

2. The Commission wishes to include an increasing number of regional statistics in its publications where this is relevant. To this end the Statistical Office of the European Communities together with the competent services of the Member States have defined a nomenclature of statistical territorial units (NUTS), a scheme for regional economic accounts. (ESA/Reg) and a series of indicators covering aspects of the socio-economic life of the regions. The majority of Community statistical surveys also have a regional aspect.

3. The honourable Member's attention is drawn to the fact that regional statistics are not only published in the periodic report but also in the several publications of the Statistical Office of the European Communities and in particular the yearbooks of regional statistics and regional accounts. A statistical data base on the regions (REGIO) has also been created.

Written Question No 1041/86
by Mrs Beate Weber, Mr Gerd Walter and Mr Rolf Linkohr (S—D)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(87/C 31/60)

Subject: Electricity supplies

1. What quantities of electricity are presently exported and imported between Member States under supply contracts or on the basis of direct holdings?

2. What quantities of electricity are exported and imported between Community and non-Community countries?

3. What proportions of these supplies are taken up by the various countries?

4. Is it known from what individual sources of energy the exported or imported electricity supplies are produced, i.e. from coal, water, nuclear energy, etc.?

5. Are the additional purchases of electricity used more to cover basic requirements or peak-load demand?

6. Are electricity supplies delivered under the same terms charged at different tariffs?

Answer given by Mr Mosar
on behalf of the Commission

The following table indicates the import and export of electrical energy in the Member States in 1985:

(TWh)

	Import (+)	Export (−)	Balance	A (see below) (%)
EUR 12	76.1	62.4	+ 13.7	0.9
Germany	18.8	16.3	+ 2.5	0.6
France	5.3	28.8	− 23.5	7.7
Italy	25.1	1.4	+ 23.7	12.1
Netherlands	6.0	0.9	+ 5.1	7.7
Belgium	5.5	5.5	0	0
Luxembourg	4.0	0.4	+ 3.6	94.7
United Kingdom	—	—	—	—
Ireland	—	—	—	—
Denmark	3.1	2.6	+ 0.5	1.8
Greece	0.9	0.2	+ 0.7	2.6
Spain	3.9	5.0	− 1.1	0.9
Portugal	3.5	1.3	+ 2.2	10.8

Column A indicates, to situate the orders of magnitude, the relationships between the balances of imports/exports and the respective electricity consumptions.

In 1985 neither the United Kingdom nor Ireland had electrical interconnections with other countries. A cable interconnection has now been established between the United Kingdom and France.

Source: Eurostat (figures rounded), 1 TWh = 10^9 KWh.

The Commission understands that a limited number of firm contracts for exchanges of electrical energy exist; these are generally short term. However, some power stations jointly owned by utilities in neighbouring Member States exist in Belgium, France and Spain, production from which is dedicated to the participating utilities. In addition, utilities in all Member States (except Ireland and Greece) consider a fraction of their total interconnection capacity as an emergency power supply reliable enough to allow an effective reduction of their reserve capacity margin.

The above table shows an import balance to the Community of 13.7 TWh from non-Member States. Of this the import balance of Denmark was from Norway and Sweden, that of Greece (not interconnected with any other Member State) from Yugoslavia, Albania and

Bulgaria and the remainder from Switzerland and Austria.

Electrical energy exchanges take place according to the prices and availability at the time of the exchanges and therefore cannot be attributed to particular energy sources. It is clear, however, that the energy exports of the largest exporter, France, are based mainly on nuclear power.

The Commission does not have information on the prices at which electrical energy is traded between electricity utilities. Production costs as well as patterns of supply will, as with supplies to all consumers, influence the selling prices per KWh. The Commission understands that, in practice, prices reflect an even distribution of the financial advantages of the trade between the partners concerned.

Written Question No 159/85
by Mr Jaak Vandemeulebroucke (ARC—B)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(85/C 228/73)

Subject: Use of the land in the Member States

Factors such as the demand for larger houses and flats, more detached housing and increasingly larger plots of land for building as well as the laying out and widening of a countless number of streets have created a situation in Belgium whereby the surface area available to agriculture has dropped sharply in recent years. Can the Commission provide figures on the reduction (if any) in the area of land used for agricultural purposes in each of the Member States both in hectares and as a percentage of the corresponding figure for 1962 (or the most correct figures available)?

Answer given by Mr Andriessen on behalf of the Commission

The table below shows changes in utilized agricultural area in the Community for the nine countries and the ten countries from 1962 to 1984.

Utilized agricultural area (UAA) in the Community from 1962 to 1984

	UAA (1 000 ha)		Change 1962/1984		
	1962	1984	1 000 ha	%	Annual % change
Federal Republic of Germany	14 149	12 044	− 2 105	− 14.9	− 0.7
France	34 418	31 550	− 2 868	− 8.3	− 0.4
Italy	20 093	17 552	− 2 541	− 12.6	− 0.6
Netherlands	2 319	2 026	− 293	− 12.6	− 0.6
Belgium	1 695	1 450	− 245	− 14.5	− 0.7
Luxembourg	137	128	− 9	− 6.6	− 0.3
United Kingdom	19 205	18 690	− 515	− 2.7	− 0.1
Ireland	4 615	5 657	+ 1 042	+ 22.5	+ 0.9
Denmark	3 126	2 873	− 253	− 8.1	− 0.4
EUR 9	99 757	91 970	− 7 787	− 7.8	− 0.4
Greece [1]	8 960	9 234	+ 274	+ 3.1	+ 0.1
EUR 10	108 717	101 204	− 7 513	− 6.9	− 0.3

Source: Eurostat.
[1] *Source:* National Statistical Service of Greece.

Written Question No 1104/86
by Mr James Elles (ED—UK)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(87/C 31/67)

Subject: Financial support to the educational sector

Will the Commission set out, in tabular form, the amount spent by each Member State in support of its educational sector setting out in each case how these funds are financed?

Answer given by Mr Pfeiffer
on behalf of the Commission

The most recent data available for expenditure by public authorities on education and training, in absolute terms and as a percentage of gross domestic product, are given in the following table. They are for the calendar year 1982 except where indicated otherwise.

	Million ECU	% of GDP
Belgium	5 351	6.2
Denmark (1981)	3 816	7.4
Federal Republic of Germany	31 211	5.1
France	31 725	5.7
Ireland	1 259	7.0
Italy	20 572	5.8
Luxembourg	266	7.6
Netherlands	9 588	6.8
United Kingdom	27 644	5.7

These figures, together with analyses, can be found in Table 16 of 'Education and Training', 1985 edition, published by Eurostat.

No specific information is available on the methods of financing these expenditures, but it can be taken that they are covered by the budgets of the central and local authorities in the respective Member States.

Comparable figures for Greece, Spain and Portugal are not available yet.

No statistics are available on the totality of private expenditure on education and training.

PUBLICATIONS

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REGIONS — THE COMMUNITY'S FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN INVESTMENTS 1985

Theme 1 — Series A: Yearbooks

Updating of an commentary on the data relating to the regional dispersion of the financial participations agreed by the Community in 1985 with regard to regional development, according to the following forms:

(i) European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guidance Section;

(ii) European Regional Development Fund (ERDF);

(iii) European Coal and Steel Community and European Atomic Energy Community (ECSC Treaty, Articles 54 and 56.2 a, and Euratom Treaty);

(iv) European Investment Bank (EIB). Loans from the Bank's own resources and from the resources of the New Community Instrument for borrowing and lending (NCI).

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	250	250	DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/IT/NL	ISBN 92-825-6899-7

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS AND STATISTICS 1970—1984

Theme 2 — Series A: Yearbooks

Series of publications relating to statistics on general government; they provide all transactions on general government broken down by sub-sector (central government, local government, social security funds), as well as an analysis of public income and expenditure. The volume presents detailed information on the receipts from the various national taxes. It is completed by comparative tables for the nine member countries.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	395	900	DA/DE/EN/FR/IT/NL	ISBN 92-825-6992-6

DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS 1987

Theme 3 — Series C: Accounts, surveys and statistics

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 makes it very difficult to obtain comparable and up-to-date information necessary to study trends within the Community. The present publication is designed 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 each country and for the total Community.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	220	800	ES/DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/ IT/NL/PT	ISBN 92-825-7042-8

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT 1987

Theme 3 — Series C: Accounts, surveys and statistics

This yearbook covers in a single volume the following statistical aspects of the labour market:

(i) population;

(ii) working population and employment according to sex, status and sector of activity;

(iii) gainful employment in industry and the services (NACE and ISIC nomenclatures);

(iv) registered unemployment, vacancies and job placements;

(v) industrial disputes;

(vi) working hours.

As far as they are available, the data relate to the years from 1970 to 1985 in the 12 Member States of the European Community. The main variables are illustrated by 13 graphs.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	227	850	ES/DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/ IT/NL/PT	ISBN 92-825-6690-0

ENERGY — STATISTICAL YEARBOOK 1985

Theme 4 — Series A: Yearbooks

This yearbook groups in a single publication an extensive volume of statistical information relating to the energy economy of the Community and the Member States, particularly for the most recent year available.

The first chapter covers the characteristic data of energy economics in recent years.

The second chapter concerns the overall 'energy supplied' balance-sheets for the Community and each Member State for the most recent year. These balance-sheets are presented in detailed form in specific units and in tonnes oil equivalent, and in a more aggregated form in terajoules and in tonnes oil equivalent.

The third chapter gives historical series for each energy source for the principal aggregates characterizing the structures of energy economics.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	288	800	ES/DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/ IT/NL/PT	ISBN 92-825-6873-5

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION — METHODOLOGY

Theme 4 — Series E: Methods

This publication sets out, in the form of a synoptic table, the main features of the different methodologies (type of survey, survey periodicity, number of products surveyed, nomenclatures used, survey units etc.) used by the Member States for collecting datas on the production of industrial goods.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	48	100	ES/DE/EN/FR	ISBN 92-825-7041-X

FARM STRUCTURE — 1983 SURVEY: ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Theme 5 — Series D: Studies and analyses

This volume analyses the main results of the 1975 and 1983 Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings. The results presented in table form are accompanied by short comments and by graphs or maps. In addition to the general results, special attention was given to the distribution by types of production and by economic farm size class.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	176	400	FR	ISBN 92-825-7263-3

MANUAL ON THE ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Theme 5 — Series E: Methods

Economic accounts for agriculture have been published by the Statistical Office of the European Communities since 1964. For the first few years, the concepts, definitions and rules of accounting were not uniform and it was not until 1969 that the six original Member States began to use the European systems of integrated economic accounts (ESA) as the basis for their calculations. In 1969 also, the system of Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) was supplemented by the system of Economic accounts for forestry (EAF), which was based on the ESA from the start.

The present manual is the result of further systematic development from these early beginnings; it aims to provide coherent, practical and readily comprehensible tool for the compilation and use of the EAA and the EAF.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	120	250	EN	ISBN 92-825-7268-4

AGRICULTURAL INCOME — SECTORAL INCOME INDEX ANALYSIS 1986

Theme 5 — Series D: Studies and analyses

This publication presents an analysis of the evolution of agricultural income between 1973 and 1986. The published data for 1986 are the latest available estimates for all Member States except Portugal.

The first two chapters are reserved for the indicators of agricultural income in the Community and for each Member State. The reasons for the evolution of income in 1986 and from 1973 to 1985 are analysed. A short chapter is devoted to the comparison of agricultural income, in absolute terms, between the Member States.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	94	200	DE	ISBN 92-825-6975-6
A4	94	200	EN	ISBN 92-825-6976-4
A4	94	200	FR	ISBN 92-825-6977-2

FORESTRY STATISTICS — TABLES

Theme 5 — Serie C: Accounts, surveys and statistics

This volume is restricted to forestry statistics tables. For details of methodological approach please consult the publication *Forestry statistics — Methodology* in the same series.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	117	500	ES/DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/ IT/NL/PT	ISBN 92-825-6943-8

EC-ASEAN TRADE: A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS 1970—1984

Theme 6 — Series D: Studies and analyses

Analysis of the evolution of the geographical and product distribution of trade between the EC and the Asean countries.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	266	400	EN/FR	ISBN 92-825-7332-X

TRADE EC-DEVELOPING COUNTRIES — MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS — ANALYSIS 1970—1984

Theme 6 — Series: Studies and analyses

Analyses of the evolution of EC trade with developing countries in manufactured products for various groupings of products and countries.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	418	500	EN/FR	ISBN 92-825-7230-7

CARRIAGE OF GOODS — INLAND WATERWAYS 1985

Theme 7 — Series C: Accounts, surveys and statistics

Statistics referring to the carriage of goods within the Member States by inland waterways, carried by inland waterway vessels respective to the country in which they are registered or licensed.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	± 212	550	ES/DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/ IT/NL/PT	ISBN 92-825-6926-8

To be published

REGIONS — STATISTICAL YEARBOOK 1987

Theme 1 — Series A: Yearbooks

In this publication, the Statistical Office of the European Communities gives the latest statistics on the main aspects of social and economic life in the regions of the Community:

(i) population,

(ii) employment and unemployment,

(iii) education, health and various social indicators,

(iv) economic aggregates,

(v) characteristics of different sectors of the economy: agriculture, industry, energy and the services sector,

(vi) Community's financial participation in investments.

The main regional indicators are also presented in a series of coloured maps.

For the first time, the 'Regions' yearbook covers the Community of Twelve. For Portugal, however, only a few figures are available at regional level.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	± 240	1 000	ES/DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/IT/NL/PT	ISBN 92-825-6990-X

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS ESA — DETAILED TABLES BY BRANCH, 1987

Theme 2 — Series C: Accounts, surveys and statistics

Detailed results of the national accounts of the member countries. Data are provided for the operations on goods and services (value-added, earnings of employees, gross fixed capital formation, final consumption of households) as well as the breakdown by branch of employment.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	173	450	EN/FR	ISBN 92-825-7375-3

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS ESA — DETAILED TABLES BY SECTOR 1970—1984

Theme 2 — Series A: Yearbooks

Detailed data for the Community and the Member States on flows of income between institutional sectors (companies, households, government, etc.) and their financial transactions (changes in assets and liabilities), compiled in accordance with the European system of integrated economic accounts (ESA).

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	± 376	1 000	EN/FR	ISBN 92-825-6992-6

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS — GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN 1980—1985

Theme 2 — Series C: Accounts, surveys and statistics

This volume presents the most recent available data on the geographical breakdown of the balance of payments of each European Community country and of the United States and Japan.

The balances of the European Community countries are also given, where possible, in the form of totals relating to the ten Member States (EUR 10) as a whole.

The data are expressed in millions of ECU; they are presented according to the Eurostat balance of payments and geographical breakdown schemes, and cover the period 1980 to 1985. The figures are preceded by a note concerning the drawing up of the balance of payments of the Community institutions.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	248	750	EN/FR	ISBN 92-825-7281-1

LABOUR FORCE SAMPLE SURVEY, 1987

Theme 3 — Series C: Accounts, surveys and statistics

The Labour Force Sample Survey was carried out in the Spring of 1985 in all Member States of the Community pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3530/84 of 13 December 1984.

In this publication, the Statistical Office of the European Communities presents the main results of the survey:

The data cover, in particular:

(i) the total population of private households, the labour force and unemployed persons, by sex and age group;

(ii) employed persons by sex, professional status and branch of activity;

(iii) weekly working hours;

(iv) the main groups of persons seeking employment, by sex, reasons for seeking employment, duration of search and methods used.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	± 176	300	ES/DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/IT/NL/PT	ISBN 92-825-7367-2

DEFINITIONS OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED, 1986

Theme 3 — Series E: Methods

This publication is a general survey of national definitions and the scope of statistics on registered unemployment in the 12 Community countries. It is a reference work, divided into three main sections: general definition of unemployment, establishing its duration and the system of benefit.

This edition amends and continues the corresponding 1982 and 1984 publications.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	± 120	350	ES	ISBN 92-825-7354-0
			DA	ISBN 92-825-7355-9
			DE	ISBN 92-825-7356-7
			GR	ISBN 92-825-7357-5
			EN	ISBN 92-825-7358-3
			FR	ISBN 92-825-7359-1
			IT	ISBN 92-825-7360-5
			NL	ISBN 92-825-7361-3
			PT	ISBN 92-825-7362-1

CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY RAILWAY, 1985

Theme 7 — Series: Accounts, surveys and statistics

Statistics referring to the carriage of goods on the main railway networks of the Member States open to public traffic.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	186	750	ES/DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/IT/ NL/PT	ISBN 92-825-7366-4

Periodicals [1]

► **Monthly bulletins**

EUROSTATISTICS — DATA FOR SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Theme 1 — Series B: Short-term trends

Eurostatistics is the monthly report on short-term economic development.

Four kinds of information are published in *Eurostatistics*.

(i) an article 'In brief' which looks at the latest trends in the data available;

(ii) a visual presentation of the most important economic series for the Community, the 12 Member States, the USA and Japan;

(iii) tables of 'Short-term data' harmonized by Eurostat on the basis of common criteria for the 12 Member States and comparisons with the USA and Japan;

(iv) 'Country tables' with a selection of the most important economic indicators allowing a rapid overview of the economic and social situation in each country.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	94	2 000 ann. sub.	DE/EN/FR	ISSN 0252-8266

REPORTS ON ACP COUNTRIES

Theme 1 — Series C: Accounts, surveys and statistics

Eurostat's series of 'Reports on ACP countries' are based on reports compiled by the Statistical Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, and published in that institutions' 'Statistik des Auslandes' (Statistics of foreign countries) series. The aim is to provide detailed information on these countries, about which the general public in the European Community is very poorly informed, at a time when ACP-EEC relations are intensifying and improving as a result, in particular, of the conclusion of the 3rd Lomé Convention.

To make this information available to a wider international readership Eurostat is publishing this European version in French and English (and possibly, at a later stage, in Spanish).

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
C5	100	2 800 ann. sub.	EN/FR	

[1] From 1 January 1987 a supplement with translations of those languages which are not published regularly, will be added to one of the first issues of the year in order to enable all readers to understand the contents of the periodical bulletins. The languages mentioned in the following pages are the languages in which the periodicals are regularly published.

CONSUMER PRICE INDICES — MONTHLY

Theme 2 — Series B: Short-term trends

This bulletin can be obtained by subscription which includes:

(i) 12 monthly issues giving the general index;

(ii) 4 quarterly issues (supplement) showing the evolution of the consumer price indices for the 8 main groups of consumption as well as for the 20 sub-groups on the base 1980 = 100.

The quarterly supplements will appear in March, June, September and December and will contain monthly and annual figures for 1982 to 1987 for the 12 EC countries and the United States.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A 4	45	ann. sub. 1 700	EN	ISSN 1010-2779
			FR	ISSN 1010-2787

ECU-INFORMATION — MONTHLY

Theme 2 — Series B: Short-term trends

This new publication supplies a series of ECU indicators which refer to the official and private use of the ECU.

The monthly evolution of the ECU exchange rate and the bilateral divergencies of the currencies participating in the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS are shown. The latter is presented as a graphic.

Price indices adapted to the ECU and EC currencies are calculated also. Concerning the capital markets, two tables are devoted to the interests and issues of securities denominated in ECU.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	9	ann. sub. 1 100	DE	ISSN 1011-0860
A4	9	ann. sub. 1 100	EN	ISSN 1011-0844
A4	9	ann. sub. 1 100	FR	ISSN 1011-0836
A4	9	ann. sub. 1 100	IT	ISSN 1011-0852

UNEMPLOYMENT — MONTHLY

Theme 3 — Series B: Short-term trends

The monthly bulletin gives information about the situation on the labour market in the enlarged Community.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A 4	10	900 ann. sub.	DE	ISSN 0252-9890
A 4	10	900 ann. sub.	EN	ISSN 0252-9920
A 4	10	900 ann. sub.	FR	ISSN 0252-9912
A 4	10	900 ann. sub.	IT	ISSN 0252-9904

ENERGY — MONTHLY STATISTICS

Theme 4 — Series B: Short-term trends

Rapid update of the principal statistical series characterizing the short-term trend in the energy economy (coal, oil, gas, electrical energy) including graphs. Some new series have been introduced. They cover all energy sources, statistics in value and factors influencing the energy market.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	70	2 300 ann. sub.	EN/FR	ISSN 0258-3569

INDUSTRIAL TRENDS — MONTHLY STATISTICS

Theme 4 — Series B: Short-term trends

This publication provides information, updated monthly, on industrial activity in the European Community. The first chapter gives indices for industrial production, turnover, new orders, number of employees, wages and salaries. The data are given for each industrial branch and for industry as a whole, and include indices for the value of imports and exports for these branches.

Chapter 2 contains indicators on the situation in the building and civil engineering sector. A further chapter gives producer price indices for manufacturing industry.

Statistics which are not published regularly may be given in an annex or in the form of an additional chapter in some issues. There are also supplements dealing with methodology and for retrospective series. The main results are illustrated by numerous graphs.

The data are taken directly from the ICG domain of the Cronos data bank between the 20th and 25th of each month and the bulletin appears at the beginning of the following month.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	60	1 800 ann. sub.	DE/EN/FR	ISSN 0258-1922

IRON AND STEEL — MONTHLY

Theme 4 — Series B: Short-term trends

Short-term economic statistics (monthly) on production of pig-iron, crude steel, steel mill products, consumption and receipts of scrap and number of short-time workers.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	21	1 400 ann. sub.	DE/EN/FR	ISSN 0348-7559

EXTERNAL TRADE — MONTHLY STATISTICS

Theme 6 — Series B: Short-term trends

General summary of foreign trade of the European Community by country and by product. Trends in EC trade by country and by product. Trade of the main non-EC countries. Indices.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	160	4 000 ann. sub.	EN/FR	ISSN 0378-3723

TRENDS IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES — RETAIL SALES — REGISTRATION OF CARS

Theme 7 — Series B: Short-term trends

A new publication, replacing that published up to December 1986 entitled *Retail sales — Index numbers.* This bulletin continues the publication of volume indices for all retail sales in nine Community countries, the United States and Japan. Every three months monthly indices are also published for the volume of retail sales in three groups of products — food, clothing and household equipment. Finally, every three months the publication contains indices for the number of registrations of new private cars and commercial vehicles in all 12 Member States.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A 4	14	600 ann. sub.	EN/FR	ISSN 1010-1748
A 4	14	600 ann. sub.	ES/DE	ISSN 1010-1756

► **Quarterly bulletins**

QUARTERLY NATIONAL ACCOUNTS ESA

Theme 2 — Series B: Short-term trends

Principal national accounts aggregates on a quarterly basis. Volume and price trends. Comparison between the Community as a whole, those Member States which compile quarterly accounts, the United States and Japan. Commentary and graphs.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A 4	9	400 ann. sub.	DE	ISSN 1010-1780
A 4	9	400 ann. sub.	EN	ISSN 1010-1764
A 4	9	400 ann. sub.	FR	ISSN 1010-1772

MONEY AND FINANCE

Theme 2 — Series B: Short-term trends

This publication consists of two parts: one containing a number of structural financial indicators, covering the period 1976 to 1986 and a second part in which annual, quarterly and monthly time-series data will be provided. The structural indicators will refer to the evolution of certain financial aggregates in relation to the GDP, the consolidated balance sheets of credit institutions, the money supply, the public finance, the exchange rates and the foreign reserves.

As regards the time-series, they contain data for the short-term economic analysis and cover the following subjects: money supply, capital markets, public finance, interest rates, exchange rates and official reserves. Moreover, a chapter of the bulletin will provide statistics related to the European Monetary System.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A 4	80	1 600 ann. sub.	DE/EN/FR	ISSN 0255-6510

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS — QUARTERLY DATA

Theme 2 — Series B: Short-term trends

This publication provides the latest available quarterly and annual data on the global balance of payments (flows) of each European Community country, as well as for the Community as a whole (EUR 10 and EUR 12) and of the United States and Japan. The publication includes comparative tables with the main balance items of a certain number of industrialized countries. Issue No 3 of each year contains also as annex the historical global data on the 12 last years.

The data are expressed in millions of European currency units (Mio ECU); they are presented according to the Eurostat's balance-of-payments schema and cover the three latest annual and the nine latest quarterly available periods.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A 4	120	1 200 ann. sub.	DE/EN/FR	ISSN 0255-6510

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION — QUARTERLY STATISTICS

Theme 4 — Series B: Short-term trends

Statistics of industrial production by product. Annual and quarterly data on production of industrial products in the Member States of the EC.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A 4	200	1 000 ann. sub.	DE/EN/FR	ISSN 0254-0649

IRON AND STEEL — QUARTERLY STATISTICS

Theme 4 — Series B: Short-term trends

Annual, quarterly and monthly statistics on employment, consumption of raw materials, production of iron ore, pig-iron, crude steel, finished steel products and end products, on works deliveries and receipts, stocks, on external and internal ECSC steel and scrap trade and on apparent steel consumption.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A 4	75	3 100 ann. sub.	DE/EN/FR	ISSN 0378-7672

ANIMAL PRODUCTION — QUARTERLY STATISTICS

Theme 5 — Series B: Short-term trends

Statistics on:

1. meat: slaughterings, external trade and gross indigenous production in head of livestock and tonnes;
2. eggs and poultry: eggs placed in incubation, chicks hatched, external trade and chicks placed;
3. milk and milk products: milk collected, milk products obtained, survey results, supply balance sheets, forecasts, etc.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A 4	130	2 200 ann. sub.	DE/EN/FR	ISSN 0250-6580

CROP PRODUCTION — QUARTERLY STATISTICS

Theme 5 — Series B: Short-term trends

The most recent data on:

1. land use, arable crops (areas, yields and production) and fruit and vegetable production;
2. weather conditions;
3. supply balance sheets, plant products and fruit.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A 4	180	2 200 ann. sub.	EN/FR	ISSN 0378-3588

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Microfiche

Theme 5 — Series B: Short-term trends

The microfiche for agricultural prices contain the monthly 'selling prices of crop products', 'selling prices of animal products' and 'purchase prices of the means of agricultural production' for the Member States of the Community (without Portugal). Agricultural prices for Portugal are expected to become available during the next few years. All data are also stored in the Cronos data bank (PRAG domain). The monthly prices in the microfiche cover the past two years. Where no monthly series exist, the tables show the annual prices for 1977 to 1986 inclusive. The prices are expressed in national currencies and in ECU.

The selling prices of crop and animal products comprise prices for the major products at the agricultural producer level, and also the prices of a number of processed products of the dairy industry. The purchase prices of the means of agricultural production relate to the prices paid by farmers for feedingstuffs, fertilizers and fuels.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A 4		1 800 ann. sub.	DE/EN/FR/IT	ISSN 0254-3834

NIMEXE-EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS — PRODUCTS-COUNTRIES SCE 1111/1112

Microfiche

Theme 6 — Series B: Short-term trends

Special-trade imports and/or exports on the basis of the nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the European Communities and for statistics on trade between Member States (Nimexe) with the following characteristics:

— values and quantities (Nimexe 6);

— supplementary units (Nimexe 6 US);

— all statistical systems together;

— no threshold;
— quarterly coverage (cumulative data, January-March, January-June, January-September, January-December).

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
Microfiche		on request	DE/EN/FR	

NIMEXE-EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS — PRODUCTS-COUNTRIES — PROCESSING TRAFFIC — SCE 1118/1119

Microfiche

Theme 6 — Series B: Short-term trends

Special-trade imports and/or exports on the basis of the nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the European Community and statistics on trade between the Member States (Nimexe) with the following characteristics:
— values and quantities (Nimexe 6);
— supplementary units (Nimexe 6 US);
— breakdown according to statistical system;
— no threshold;
— quarterly coverage (cumulative data, January-March, January-June, January-September, January-December).

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
Microfiche		on request	DE/EN/FR	

NIMEXE-EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS — COUNTRIES-PRODUCTS SCE 2112

Microfiche

Theme 6 — Series B: Short-term trends

Special-trade imports and/or exports on the basis of the nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the European Community and for statistics on trade between the Member States (Nimexe) with the following characteristics:
— values and quantities (Nimexe 6/4/2);
— all statistical systems together;
— no threshold;
— quarterly coverage (cumulative data, January-March, January-June, January-September, January-December).

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
Microfiche		on request	DE/EN/FR	

NIMEXE-EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS — PRODUCTS-COUNTRIES — PROCESSING TRAFFIC SCE 2119

Microfiche

Theme 6 — Series B: Short-term trends

Special-trade imports and/or exports on the basis of the nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the European Community and for statistics on trade between Member States (Nimexe) with the following characteristics:

- values and quantities (Nimexe 6/4/2 — processing traffic);
- breakdown according to statistical system;
- no threshold;
- quarterly coverage (cumulative data, January-March, January-June, January-September, January-December).

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
Microfiche		on request	DE/EN/FR	

SITC-EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS — PRODUCTS-COUNTRIES SCE 1311/1312

Microfiche

Theme 6 — Series B: Short-term trends

Special-trade imports and/or exports of the Member States of the European Community on the basis of the United Nations Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, rev. 2). These statistics are based on Nimexe data and have the following characteristics:

- values and quantities (SITC 5);
- supplementary units (SITC 5 US);
- all statistical systems together;
- no threshold;
- quarterly coverage (cumulative data, January-March, January-June, January-September, January-December).

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
Microfiche		on request	DE/EN/FR	

SITC-EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS — COUNTRIES-PRODUCTS SCE 2311

Microfiche

Theme 6 — Series B: Short-term trends

Special-trade imports and/or exports of the Member States of the European Community on the basis of the United Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, rev. 2). These statistics are based on Nimexe data and have the following characteristics:

- values and quantities (SITC 5/4/3/2/1);
- all statistical systems together;

— no threshold;
— quarterly coverage (cumulative data, January-March, January-June, January-September, January-December).

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
Microfiche		on request	DE/EN/FR	

IMPORTS UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) BY PRODUCT AND BY COUNTRY BENEFITING THEREFROM

Microfiche

Theme 6 — Series B: Short-term trends

The European Economic Community grants generalized tariff preferences, under agreements concluded within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad), for imports of certain products originating in developing countries.

In this publication Eurostat provides data on total imports and imports at preferential rates into each Member State, by value, broken down by group of products and developing country.

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
Microfiche				

► **Half-yearly bulletins**

EARNINGS — INDUSTRY AND SERVICES

Theme 3 — Series B: Short-term trends

This publication which is updated every six months contains harmonized data on manual workers' hourly earnings in industry, and non-manual workers' monthly earnings in industry, commerce, banking and insurance. These data are broken down by industrial groups according to NACE, by sex and, for certain countries, by region. In addition, this publication shows, for manual and non-manual workers combined and broken down by industrial group, some data on total hourly costs in industry (results of the three-yearly Community surveys and updated estimates for intermediate years).

Format	Pages	Price in BFR	Languages	Order No
A4	250	1 800 ann. sub.	DE/EN/FR	ISSN 0259/0492

EC AGRICULTURAL PRICE INDICES (OUTPUT AND INPUT)

Theme 5 — Series B: Short-term trends

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