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PROGRESS REPORTS

STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS
AND OF THE INTER-AMERICAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE*

Progress report by the Secretary-General

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1. This progress report covers the statistical activities of the regional economic commissions and of the Inter-American Statistical Institute since the sixteenth session of the Statistical Commission, in October 1970. A progress report on the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations is also before the Commission (E/CN.3/436), as is one on the balance-of-payments statistics of the International Monetary Fund (E/CN.3/437).

* The Secretary-General wishes to thank the Inter-American Statistical Institute for its contribution to this report.

I. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE)

A. Conference of European Statisticians

2 The Conference had its nineteenth plenary session in June 1971 (Conf.Eur.Stats/309) and the twentieth plenary session is scheduled for June 1972. The main developments in the Conference's work during the programme years 1970/71 and 1971/72 are described below.

1. National accounts and balances

3. The Conference continued to co-operate in the work of the Statistical Commission on the extension and further development of the systems of national accounts and balances. During the period under review, meetings were held or are scheduled to be held on statistics on the distribution of income, consumption and wealth and on statistics of prices and quantities. Work also started on an international comparison of relative income differences within the population, which will be carried out jointly by eight countries.

2. System of demographic and social statistics

4. The Conference continued to participate in the development of a system of demographic and social statistics. The working party on the subject, which meets approximately once a year, is concerned with the general aspects of the system. In addition, the programme of work of the Conference provides for meetings in which problems relating to particular subsystems are considered by specialists in the field concerned (see below).

3. Classifications

5. The Conference is engaged in the work on the development of an International Standard Commodity Classification of all Goods and Services. A meeting on the subject was held under the 1970/71 programme, and another meeting is provided for in the 1972/73 programme. Relevant parts of the Classification will also be studied in other meetings under the programme of the Conference, in which experts in the fields concerned participate.

6. Work has also been undertaken on the preparation of a correspondence key between the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) and the standard foreign trade classification of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. A consultation on this subject will be held shortly.

4. Economic statistics

7. The Conference has continued to co-operate with FAO and the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems in the field of agricultural statistics. Work has begun on the preparation of an integrated programme of agricultural statistics, and on the revision of the handbook for economic accounts for agriculture.

8. During the period under review, meetings were also held on statistics of chemicals (jointly with the ECE Chemical Industry Committee) and on construction statistics (jointly with the ECE Committee on Housing, Building and Planning).

9. Work had been completed on a quadrilateral comparison of labour productivity in industry between Austria, Czechoslovakia, France and Hungary, undertaken jointly by the statistical offices of these countries.

10. Jointly with Unesco, the Conference is engaged in work on the improvement and development of science and technology. A joint meeting on the subject will be held in the last quarter of 1972.

5. Social and demographic statistics

11. In 1970/71 meetings were held on (a) health statistics (jointly with WHO), at which questions relating to the health subsystem of a system of demographic statistics were discussed, and (b) demographic projections, which was devoted to the subject of projections of the total population by sex and age. In 1971/72 a seminar on current demographic statistics was held at which, inter alia, problems relating to the demographic subsystem were considered. Preparations are underway for a meeting on educational statistics in 1972/73, to be held jointly with Unesco, at which various aspects of the educational subsystem will be discussed.

6. Other statistical subjects

12. In the 1971/72 programme a consultation was held by a small number of experts to discuss the problems involved in developing a system of statistics for environmental studies and policies. In the light of the conclusions reached, a detailed study on this question is being prepared for a meeting in the last quarter of 1972.

13. During the 1971/72 programme, a meeting was also held on statistics of tourism (jointly with the Secretariats of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Union of Official Travel Organisations (IUOTO)). The participants discussed the UNCTAD Guidelines for Tourism Statistics (TD/B/C.3/85), and agreed on the contents of a more developed European programme, based on these guidelines.

7. Organizational and operational subjects

14. The Working Party on Electronic Data Processing met under the 1970/71 and 1971/72 programmes. The main subjects discussed were the equipment, media and techniques for the automatic output of statistical data and automatic detection and adjustments of data errors in fields other than population censuses. In 1970/71, a consultation was held at the Computing Research Centre, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, for further discussions on the development of an integrated statistical information system.

8. Co-ordination of statistical activities

15. In conjunction with the nineteenth plenary session, the Conference convened a consultation with international organizations on problems of co-ordination in the field of population statistics and projections. In conjunction with the twentieth plenary session, there will be a similar consultation on social indicators. At its annual plenary sessions, the Conference continues to review the statistical work of ECE.

B. Statistical work of the principal subsidiary bodies of ECE

16. The Group of Experts on Transport Statistics of the Inland Transport Committee of ECE met in January 1972. The group considered, inter alia, the methods of collecting basic transport statistics, censuses of traffic on main international traffic arteries, and problems in the compilation of indices of prices and quantities in transport.

17. All other statistical meetings under the programme of principal subsidiary bodies of ECE were convened jointly with the Conference of European Statisticians and have already been mentioned under A above.

II. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST (ECAFE)

A. Statistical compilation and analysis

18. During the period under review, the second and third issues of the Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Far East were published. The third issue of the Yearbook (1970) includes, for the first time, the available data relating to China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. The fourth issue of the Yearbook (1971) is in printing. The section on Asian Economic Statistics has been removed from the Quarterly Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East and a new Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics has been established. The first issue of the Bulletin will appear shortly. A new quarterly publication entitled Statistical Indicators in ECAFE Countries has also been initiated for restricted circulation. Four issues of the publication were released in 1971. Steps have been taken to expedite the compilation, printing and distribution of the publication Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Far East. An Index of Availability of Basic Statistical Series in ECAFE Countries has been brought out for the secretariat's internal use.

B. Statistical methods and standards

19. The seventh and eighth issues of the Report on Sample Surveys in the ECAFE Region have been issued. The eighth report, covering the year 1970, includes particulars relating to 118 sample surveys conducted in 19 reporting countries as well as a list of 70 repetitive surveys in respect of which the details remain the same. The questionnaires, tabulation plans etc. for the population and housing censuses of 1970 have been assembled for 12 countries and issued under the title The 1970 Programme of Population and Housing Censuses in Countries of Asia and the Far East - Data Processing Plans. The 1973 Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics for Asia and the Far East has been prepared on the basis of the recommendations of the Working Group on 1973 Basic Industrial Inquiries and is due to be circulated shortly. The Guidelines for Statistics on Children and Youth (Provisional), approved by the Conference of Asian Statisticians at its tenth (1970) session, will be released shortly. The French version of the Manual on Training of Statistical Personnel at the Primary and Intermediate Levels has been published and the Supplement to the Manual is in printing. Evaluative methodological studies on national accounts and input-output tables, undertaken for selected countries, are to be published in the Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics.

C. Statistics development

20. The Conference of Asian Statisticians held its tenth session at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in December 1970. Besides the usual reviews of statistics development activities of the countries and the statistical activities of the secretariat, the Conference considered a report of the Asian Statistical Institute, Tokyo, the reports of working-groups and seminars on statistics for planning, national accounts (household sector), prices and quanta and construction statistics, and papers on agricultural, educational, health and labour statistics. It also approved draft guidelines for statistics on children and youth.

21. A Working Group on National Accounts (Production Sector) met in December 1970. It discussed the structure, concepts, definitions and classifications of production accounts, including the International Standard Commodity Classification of all Goods and Services, the uses of production accounts, the methods of gathering data and the compilation of production accounts, including input-output tables and commodity balances.

22. A Working Group on Social Statistics met in September-October 1971. It discussed the methods of planning and evaluating social development programmes, indicators of social development, the integrated system of demographic, manpower and social statistics, statistics of social welfare and security, statistics on children and youth, the role of censuses, surveys and administrative records in social statistics and the status of social statistics in countries of the ECAFE region.

23. A Working Group on 1973 Basic Industrial Inquiries met in November 1971. It examined the United Nations recommendations for the 1973 World Programme of Industrial Statistics, the status and plans of the countries of the ECAFE region, details of planning, preparation and organization of an industrial census, methods of locating and enumerating industrial establishments, classification systems and tabulations, problems and methods of gathering data from household and small-scale industries, the design of questionnaires and methods of data processing.

D. Statistical training

24. The Asian Statistical Institute concluded its first general course and the first advanced course (on world economic censuses and related inquiries) in March 1971. The second general course commenced in June 1971 and ended in March 1972 as did the second advanced course (on evaluation, analytical processing and use of census data). The Institute was to organize in Suva, Fiji, a four-week course on statistical methods and international trade statistics in April-May 1972 for the countries of the South Pacific region. It is organizing a course on the revised System of National Accounts (SNA) in Seoul, Republic of Korea during May-June 1972.

25. The ECAFE secretariat's efforts to organize a subregional statistical training programme at the primary and intermediate levels for the Khmer Republic, Laos and the Republic of Viet-Nam, with assistance from the Government of France, have borne fruit and the training course is expected to begin shortly. The secretariat has been providing, on a limited scale, on-the-job training to a few selected officials.

26. Pursuant to the recommendation of ECAFE at its twenty-seventh session, the secretariat has pursued a proposal to organize training facilities in data processing on a subregional basis. Negotiations with the Government of India to organize a training centre at New Delhi have reached an advanced stage, and similar negotiations with the Government of Japan for a training centre at Tokyo are in progress.

E. Advisory services

27. The ECAFE secretariat has been maintaining a team of regional statistical advisers for short-term assistance to the countries of the region. A regional adviser on economic and social statistics was appointed at the beginning of 1971. He rendered advisory services to Iran in social statistics, to the Philippines in labour statistics, to China in industrial and related statistics, to Fiji in industrial and social statistics and to the Cook Islands in vital, trade and general statistics. The regional adviser on national accounts advised the Governments of Ceylon, Fiji, Iran, China and Thailand, in national accounts and served as a member of the ILO interdisciplinary mission to Ceylon on comprehensive employment strategy. The regional adviser on data processing assisted Indonesia, Laos and China, in their data processing problems, with repeated missions to Laos and China.

III. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA (ECLA)

A. Statistical Division

28. The statistical activities of ECLA are chiefly concentrated in the Statistical Division. Its programme has been concerned with the collection, analysis and presentation of statistics, for use by the ECLA secretariat and for general information, in the economic and social fields. In the context of the global programme of the United Nations Statistical Office, promotion of the development of national statistics and the improvement of international comparability are pursued. The programme covers participation in the regional technical assistance programme, the organization of seminars and working groups, and the maintenance of close contact with regional activities of the specialized agencies and with the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI).

29. The basic programme of the Statistical Division covers external trade statistics, national accounts, industrial and commercial statistics, and demographic and social statistics. The basic aims remain unchanged, but the field of work can be enlarged to include statistics on transport, monetary and financial questions (including balance of payments, recently incorporated); labour, and use of the computer to be installed on ECLA premises if funds are available. Attention is now concentrated on the establishment of a basic statistical programme in individual countries which will facilitate the establishment and appraisal of an over-all economic and social development plan, especially in view of the needs of the Second United Nations Development Decade. The statistical series collected from the countries, members of ECLA, relate to all main fields of activity, that is, population and social questions, national accounts, foreign trade and balance of payments, mining, manufacturing, construction, electric power, agriculture and animal husbandry, transport, manpower and prices. Close contact is maintained with the United Nations Statistical Office, the specialized agencies and the national statistical offices.

30. The Statistical Division publishes a Statistical Bulletin for Latin America, which regularly includes series of basic statistics and a special section on statistical information on Latin America available to governments and other users. In 1971, volume VIII, numbers 1 and 2, were published.

31. In particular, as part of its regular programme, the Statistical Division takes care of the time series and prepares preliminary estimates for the Economic Survey of Latin America, which is the responsibility of the Economic Development and Research Division.

32. Other statistical series are prepared for special studies of other Divisions, usually requested at regular intervals and provided to the extent possible.

1. National Accounts Section

33. The National Accounts Section organized a Working Group on Statistics of the Distribution of Income, Consumption and Wealth, which met 3-12 November 1971 (report: ST/ECLA/Conf.42/L.6). As a result of this meeting it was decided that ECLA, through the National Accounts Section of the Statistical Division, would co-ordinate a Permanent Group of Latin American Experts on Social Accounting, for the purpose of establishing a system for the diffusion of national studies, the exchange of practical experience and joint investigation of topics of common interest. For this meeting, documents ST/ECLA/Conf.42/L.4 "Sources of information on statistics on income distribution, consumption and wealth in Latin America" and ST/ECLA/Conf.42/L.5 "Guidelines for the use of statistical sources in calculations of income distribution in Latin America", were prepared. During recent months, this section has been compiling background information on input-output experience in the region, and is now preparing to publish it. It is also gathering information on public sector accounts. As part of its regular work it prepares series of the product in national currencies and in United States of America dollars (priority rate) at constant prices, which are used in ECLA analyses.

2. External Trade Statistics Section

34. The External Trade Statistics Section has devoted itself to investigations of the external trade statistics system in use in Latin American countries and to the existing problems of coverage, classification, valuation, interrelation, coding and publication; and to the study and discussion of the usefulness and applicability of existing international and regional recommendations with special reference to the centralized system of the International Trade Statistics Centre, the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA) and the Secretaría Permanente del Tratado General de Integración Económica Centroamericana (SIECA), and also to the preparation of price and quantum index numbers and external trade indicators, terms of trade, of inter-American trade, balance of payments etc. Special attention has been given to the problem of correspondence and reconciliation of the different systems of external trade classification (Standard International Trade Classification, Brussels Tariff Nomenclature, Clasificación del Comercio Exterior según Uso y Destino Económico, Classification by Broad Economic Categories) and of manufactured production (International Standard Industrial Classification).

3. Industrial and Distributive Trade Statistics Section

35. The Industrial and Distributive Trade Statistics Section completely revised the series on production of mineral products, petroleum and petroleum products and construction statistics from 1950 onwards. On the basis of the new figures, indexes of mining production were published in the Statistical Bulletin.

36. Compilations of indicators derived from the last industrial censuses and surveys were made. One group of series referred to size of industry, while another dealt with the most important provinces of each country. Some of these tabulations were published in the following documents:

América Latina: Estadísticas de la industria metal-mecánica (E/CN.12/L.63, 28 October 1971)

América Latina: Principales indicadores derivados de los censos y encuestas industriales (E/CN.12/L.45/Add.1, 28 October 1971)

37. Among the work planned for the near future is the preparation of industrial production indexes, by country, and the review of a standard list of mining and manufactured products. In 1970, the draft of the standard list was presented to the Working Group on Industrial Statistics, which requested that work on this subject should be continued. This work is related to the preparation of international recommendations for the establishment of a basic list of selected individual commodities for which industrial production data should be compiled.

4. Demographic and Social Statistics Section

38. The Demographic and Social Statistics Section is preparing a document on tabulation for censuses of population and housing, in co-operation with ILO, the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), other divisions and units of ECLA and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). It is also working on a tabulation plan for employment statistics. It has published the document "Guía Bibliográfica en Estadísticas Demográficas y Sociales" (ST/ECLA/Conf.41/L.8, 23 August 1971) presented to the Seminar on the Use and Tabulation of Statistics and Demographic Data in Planning.

39. At the request of the countries of the region, ECLA provides advisory services on statistical matters. Secretariat staff is also available for this purpose and advice is given by mail or, if resources permit, by missions. A regional adviser in national accounts was assigned to ECLA in 1971.

40. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) is now financing the following regional advisers: two in the field of population and housing census (one for South America and the other for Central America); one in sampling, for population and housing census; one in vital statistics; one in data processing; one in cartography has been applied for.

41. Support for evaluation and appraisal at the regional level has been given high priority in the work of the Statistical Division. Ad hoc meetings with members of other divisions and units of ECLA and ILPES are being held to establish a programme to take advantage of country sources of information, such as unpublished census data and household surveys.

42. First steps have already been taken in the field of income distribution and employment, and the problem of financing visits to the countries to examine and exploit the available sources is being tackled. Studies are also in progress on the subject of a regional computer centre and on the preparation of data banks as a basis for economic and social analysis and research.

IV. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)

43. The aims of ECA statistical programmes during the period under review were the development and co-ordination of national statistical services and the development of a centralized statistical service for the African region.

A. Development of national statistical services

44. Projects are of a technical assistance nature and consist of statistical advisory services, training and the application of standard methodology through secretariat studies and technical meetings.

1. Statistical advisory services

45. One of the main considerations has been the need to assist countries in applying the revised System of National Accounts. The regional adviser in this field will have carried out about 20 missions by October 1972. An additional regional adviser in this field has been requested. Owing to the emphasis on the 1970 World Population Census Programme and the creation of UNFPA to assist in demographic activities, the two regional advisers in demographic statistics have carried out around 50 missions during the last biennium and three new regional advisers being provided for the African Census Programme are under recruitment -- one for demographic statistics, one for sampling and one for data processing. Because of budgetary restrictions, it has not been possible to replace the regional adviser in sampling, who was transferred to another assignment. To supplement the work of the regional advisers, staff members undertook field assignments on foreign trade, prices, training and in connexion with the International Comparison Project of the United Nations.

46. The number of advisory assignments were a bit lower than in the preceding biennium because advisory missions in sampling were discontinued. The number of demographic assignments declined slightly because fewer visits were needed in East Africa after the completion of the 1970 round of censuses. Recent advisory work in this region has been concerned mainly with the processing of census results. The increase in visits in west and central Africa reflects the interest of these countries in receiving technical and financial assistance from UNFPA. The increase in the number of statistical training assignments was due to special national accounts courses organized at the institutes of statistics at Kampala, Rabat and Yaoundé. The ECA Statistics Division hopes to arrange similar courses for the 1973 programme of industrial statistics.

2. Statistical training

47. The principal United Nations-assisted projects in Africa are: at the Professional level, the National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, Rabat, Morocco; and the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, Kampala.

Uganda, and at the middle level, the Statistics Training Institute, Yaoundé, Cameroon; East African Statistical Training Centre, Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania; Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, Legon, Ghana, and the Statistical Training Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Unesco project). Although none of these projects is now financed through ECA budgetary arrangements, the secretariat has continued its substantive interest and has actively participated in some of the training programmes. The present arrangement for the Dar-es-Salaam centre continues until mid-1972.

3. Application of standard statistical methodology

48. A number of studies and manuals intended to assist in the application of standard methodology in the region have been completed. A Manual on Demographic Sample Surveys was presented, with the exception of some chapters, to the Conference of African Statisticians at its seventh session at Dakar, October 1971. A manual on the training of population and housing census personnel was also submitted to the Conference.

49. There have been eight regional statistical meetings in Africa since October 1970 in such fields as national accounts and related topics, public sector statistics, data required for projections, demographic and external trade statistics. Due to a lack of funds, a number of meetings in 1972 may have to be cancelled.

B. Development of a regional statistical service

50. The secretariat's effort to establish a centralized statistical service for the African region has two main components. The first, the collection and dissemination of information, is concerned with the preparation of regular statistical publications and the provision of data to meet special requests. The second consists of statistical studies intended to provide more detailed information on selected topics through the collection of materials from all possible sources.

1. Collection and dissemination of information

51. The following regular statistical publications have been issued:

Quarterly:

Statistical Newsletter

Quarterly Statistical Bulletin for Africa

Foreign Trade Statistics of Africa, Series A, Direction of Trade

Half-yearly:

Foreign Trade Statistics of Africa, Series B, Trade by Commodity and by Country

Yearly:

Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa

Summaries of Economic Data

52. In addition, a Statistical Yearbook has been published in seven volumes (dealing with national accounts, foreign trade, agriculture, industry, transports, demographic and social statistics, prices and finance). For the preparation of all these publications, extensive use is made of the small computer (IBM 3.0/20 with cards only) installed at ECA headquarters.

53. For the year 1972, it has been decided that the Yearbook will be published on a country basis rather than on a subject basis and will be merged with the Summaries of Economic Data. It has also been decided that the Quarterly Statistical Bulletin will be transformed into a Statistics and Economic Information Bulletin.

54. Apart from the preparation of regular publications, there has been continuing work in connexion with ad hoc requests for information and processing. Investigations undertaken by computer have included statistical relationships between national accounts variables, possible effects of the OECD offer to reduce duties on African manufactured products and a study of intra-African trade.

2. Statistical studies

55. Work has been going on for some time on an International Comparison Project, a world study concerned with purchasing power parities. The ECA secretariat has assisted in a limited way with the African part of the programme. However, data for the three African countries incorporated in the world project will not be sufficient for regional analysis and a regional extension of the study has been organized to include as many African countries as possible. Due to limitations in travel funds, however, the collection of data will be mainly by postal questionnaire.

56. The secretariat has been compiling material on patterns of private consumption expenditure in African countries, obtained partly from household budget surveys and partly from national accounts estimates based on the commodity-flow approach. The work has been organized on a subregional basis and results for North Africa are available.

57. A study of the public sector in African countries and of the structure of agricultural production was submitted to the Conference of African Statisticians.

58. A study of the terms of trade of developing Africa has recently been completed.

V. INTER-AMERICAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

A. Committee on Improvement of National Statistics (COINS) and its subcommittees

59. COINS--composed of the chief statistical officers of the American nations--held its tenth session in Washington, D.C., 2-9 February 1971. The concepts, definitions, classifications and tabulations relating to the following sections of the Inter-American Program of Basic Statistics (PIEB) were approved: Population; agriculture; industry; labour force and personal income and expenditures. Also considered at the session were the status of the national

population, housing and agricultural censuses under the Program of the 1970 Census of America, the Classification of Occupations, as well as plans in connexion with economic censuses.

60. The following sessions of subcommittees of COINS--groups of experts in specific fields--took place:

(a) The second session of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Communication Statistics (Washington, D.C., 8-15 December 1970). Principal topic: Concepts, definitions, classifications and tabulations of water transport, for PIEB;

(b) The sixth session of the Subcommittee on Agricultural Statistics (Washington, D.C., 1-8 June 1971). Principal topic: Statistics for the preparation of economic accounts for agriculture, for PIEB;

(c) The second session of the Subcommittee on Industrial, Internal Trade and Services Statistics (Washington, D.C., 30 November-7 December 1970). Principal topic: Concepts, definitions and classifications of internal trade and services, for PIEB.

B. Program of the 1970 Census of America

61. During 1970 and until June 1971, of 20 countries of the region, 17 took population and housing censuses and 14 took censuses of agriculture. The activities related to these included promotion, development of inter-American standards, review of census plans, preparation or revision of census schedules, forms and instructions, participation in the organization and taking of experimental censuses, technical assistance and personnel training. These activities were carried out in collaboration with international organizations, principally those of the United Nations system (Statistical Office, Population Division, FAO, ECLA, CELADE), and in some cases with national organizations such as the United States Agency for International Development.

62. The next stage of the Program involves censuses of a predominantly economic nature, the reference year being 1973.

C. Statistical training activities

63. Inter-American Statistical Training Center (CIENES). Three regular courses have been offered simultaneously and annually at CIENES in Santiago, Chile, since 1962. Each is designed to meet a specific need, as outlined below.

Statistical techniques: For personnel of national agencies that produce primary statistics, mainly the general bureaux of statistics and censuses and similar offices. (Graduates: 30 in 1970 and 42 in 1971).

Economic and social statistics: For personnel of institutions that prepare derived statistics and conduct economic and social research, such as central banks, production development agencies and agencies responsible for economic and social development planning. (Graduates: 30 in 1970 and 24 in 1971).

Mathematical statistics: For persons engaged in teaching statistics at the university level, and for statistical methodology consultants. (Graduates: 28 in 1970 and 17 in 1971).

64. Basic training programme for statistical personnel of Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago. In view of the fact that the teaching activities of CIENES are conducted in Spanish, this programme was prepared with the collaboration of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (Secretariat for Technical Cooperation and the Department of Statistics) and the United States Bureau of the Census. The first stage of this programme was carried out in Washington, D.C. (May-December 1969), with 4 officials from Barbados and 5 from Trinidad and Tobago; the second phase in the two countries (June-August 1970), with 21 participants in Barbados and 31 in Trinidad and Tobago, and the third phase in Washington, D.C. (October 1970-August 1971), with 2 participants from Barbados and 4 from Trinidad and Tobago.
65. National training course in cartography for statistical purposes. This course was conducted in Panama (8 February-9 April 1971), with 25 participants, and was sponsored by the Dirección de Estadística y Censo and the Instituto Cartográfico Nacional of Panama, and the General Secretariat of the OAS (Secretariat for Technical Cooperation and Department of Statistics).
66. Inter-American course on educational statistics. This course (3 May-31 August 1971) was conducted at CIENES, with 23 participants, under the sponsorship of the General Secretariat of the OAS (Department of Educational Affairs and Department of Statistics). A similar course is to be conducted at CIENES during the period April-June 1972.
67. Seminar on establishment surveys of employment, hours and earnings. This seminar was conducted at CIENES (15 March-23 April 1971), with 20 participants from Latin American countries. Plans are under way for a similar seminar to be held at San Juan, Puerto Rico (22 May-13 June 1972) for English-speaking statisticians and economists of the Latin American countries. This activity is sponsored by the General Secretariat of the OAS (Department of Social Affairs and Department of Statistics); Department of Labor and Agency for International Development of the United States, and Department of Labor of Puerto Rico.
68. National training course for mid-level census personnel. IASI collaborated in this course, particularly regarding population and housing censuses. It was held in Managua, Nicaragua (February-March 1971), at the Dirección General de Estadística y Censos.
69. Course on applied stochastic systems. This course was conducted at CIENES (4 October-12 November 1971), with 17 participants from Latin American countries.
70. Course on quality control and reliability. This course was conducted at CIENES (4 October-12 November 1971), with 32 participants.
71. Inter-American course on external trade statistics. This course was conducted at CIENES (2 February-29 April 1972), with 23 participants from 13 Latin American countries.

72. Professors of CIENES have participated in other training activities at the national level at the request of the respective countries (that is, statistical courses at the Superintendencia do Desenvolvimento do Nordeste (SUDENE) of Brazil, at the Instituto Nacional de Planificación of Peru etc.).

D. Publications

73. The 1976 edition of América en Cifras was published. It is composed of nine volumes, as follows: population characteristics and vital statistics; agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing; industry; trade, services, transport, communications, and tourism; balance of payments, national product and national income and finance; prices, wages, consumption, and other economic statistics; household, housing, urban improvement, social welfare, medical and health care; education, and other cultural statistics; general contents, general analytic index, general bibliography. Although América en Cifras is published in Spanish only, an English translation of the Introduction and General Notes (the same for all volumes) and of the contents and analytic index of each volume was inserted in the publication.

74. The Boletín Estadístico provides the more urgent data produced in the period between editions of América en Cifras; it is issued 12 times per year.

75. The journal Estadística, the official organ of IASI, was circulated on a quarterly basis.