



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.3/1987/4
16 January 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twenty-fourth session
23 February-4 March 1987
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

DISSEMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

Dissemination of international statistical data

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report has been prepared in response to a request made by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-third session. It contains a review of the publications of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in terms of their timeliness and content, as well as a description of current production methods and the steps being taken to provide wider dissemination of those publications (paras. 4-83). A summary of comments on the use of statistical data provided by several statistical organizations of Member States is also presented (paras. 84-96). The report contains information on the experiences of international statistical organizations related to the dissemination of their statistical data (paras. 97-124). Points for discussion by the Commission are included (para. 125).

* E/CN.3/1987/1.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	3
I. REVIEW OF THE RECURRENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT	4 - 56	3
A. Production practices in relation to recurrent Statistical Office publications	6 - 50	4
B. Dissemination of international statistical data through media other than publications	51 - 56	12
II. IMPROVING THE DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICS	57 - 83	13
A. Improving the timeliness of data dissemination	57 - 68	13
B. Improvements in the content of publications	69 - 76	15
C. Distribution of publications	77 - 79	17
D. Promotional activities	80 - 83	18
III. COMMENTS OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES ON THE USE OF STATISTICAL OFFICE PUBLICATIONS	84 - 96	18
IV. EXPERIENCES OF OTHER STATISTICAL OFFICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICS	97 - 124	20
A. International Labour Organisation	97 - 101	20
B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	102 - 109	21
C. International Civil Aviation Organization	110 - 113	22
D. World Health Organization	114 - 119	23
E. World Bank	120 - 122	24
F. International Monetary Fund	123 - 124	25
V. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION	125	25
<u>Annex.</u> DATE OF ISSUE OF THE ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL OFFICE		26

INTRODUCTION

1. At its twenty-third session, the Statistical Commission, having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on meeting user needs for, and improving the dissemination of, international statistics (E/CN.3/1985/2) and on broad aspects of the publication policies of statistical agencies (E/CN.3/1985/4), requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its twenty-fourth session a progress report on action taken in response to the Commission's comments. 1/

2. The Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, at its eleventh session, agreed that the progress report should include, in full detail, the nature and severity of the problems faced by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat that affect the timeliness and quality of its publication and that the information provided should relate, inter alia, to the obtaining of information from countries, processing and publication; the Group suggested that the report should include not only information on the successful initiatives of other international organizations but also on the experiences of international organizations that might be of general value to the Statistical Commission in providing guidance; it also suggested that the report should include any available national experiences in the use of the publications of the Statistical Office (E/CN.3/1987/21, paras. 11 and 12).

3. The present report contains a review of current practices in the production of the recurrent publications of the Statistical Office, their limitations and suggestions for improvements. It also contains comments provided by several national statistical offices on the use of statistical publications of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and a summary of experiences in the dissemination of statistical data provided by other statistical offices of the United Nations system.

I. REVIEW OF THE RECURRENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

4. The Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat currently produces 12 publications of international statistics issued at least once a year and 8 recurrent publications issued every few years or so as directories, supplements or compendia. In addition to the recurrent publications, the Office produces methodological studies and international standards in various statistical fields.

5. In the following subsections, recent practices in the production of recurrent Statistical Office publications issued at least once a year are described, focusing on the issues of timeliness and content.

A. Production practices in relation to recurrent Statistical Office publications

1. General compendia

6. The general compendia are the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, the Statistical Yearbook and World Statistics in Brief (United Nations Statistical Pocketbook).

(a) Monthly Bulletin of Statistics

7. The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics has been published since 1947. The current Bulletin provides monthly statistics on 69 subjects from over 200 countries and territories, together with special tables illustrating important economic developments. Quarterly data for significant world and regional aggregates are regularly included. The primary source of data for the Bulletin is the Questionnaire for the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, sent monthly to central statistical offices.

8. Data for the eight financial tables of the Bulletin are obtained in machine-readable form by monthly transmissions from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Data on manpower, earnings and consumer price statistics are transmitted from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) via the satellite link between the International Computing Centre at the United Nations Office at Geneva and the New York Computing Service at United Nations Headquarters. The table on civil aviation, which is at present published quarterly as a special table, is received from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in the form of computer printouts.

9. The majority of the monthly data are stored in the data base and updated manually through terminals. The tables for printing are composed from the updated data-base files by the photocomposition facility of the United Nations Statistical Information System (UNSI), which is a statistical data base management system developed by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. It has the capability of producing driver tapes for photocomposition. The driver tapes, thus produced, are photocomposed by a commercial service bureau, and the camera-ready tables are sent out for offset printing.

10. In addition to photocomposition by the external service bureau, an increasing number of tables in the Bulletin have been produced by photocomposition equipment in the Statistical Office. Currently, about 32 pages of the Bulletin are prepared in the Statistical Office using Compugraphic typesetting equipment.

11. It may be noted that, owing to the extensive use of photocomposition and the full co-operation of the commercial printing house, the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics has been consistently published in a timely fashion.

(b) Statistical Yearbook

12. The Statistical Yearbook has been in existence since 1949. It provides a comprehensive compilation of international statistics on a wide range of economic and social subjects. Recent issues contain almost 200 tables, most of them prepared from official data reported by countries. Of the 181 tables in the 1982 edition, 82 were prepared by the Statistical Office, 4 were provided by other services of the United Nations and 94 were provided by specialized agencies and other international organizations.

13. The production process of the Statistical Yearbook was changed starting with the issue published in 1981 (the 1979/80 edition). Until that edition, tables in the Statistical Yearbook were typeset by an external printing house, based on manuscript tables manually transcribed from the original tables provided by the contributing offices or organizations.

14. After the publication of the 1978 edition in 1979, the external printing house went out of business and the Statistical Office had to turn to more financially viable and technologically rational methods of table production and printing. By then, the Statistical Office had developed the computer software capable of producing photocomposed statistical tables, which is now part of UNSIS. The cost of producing tables and printing based on this approach was much lower and less time-consuming than the typesetting method.

15. In view of the cost-effectiveness and the efficiency inherent in the photocomposition method, the Statistical Office decided to utilize this technology for the production of the Statistical Yearbook, although it was anticipated that a substantial lead time might be needed for the initial preparatory work. Such work involves data entry into the data base, the preparation of special parameter codes for photocomposition and, for those tables provided on magnetic tapes, computer programmes to transfer data on tape into the data base.

16. Progress in the transition to the new method has been slower than originally anticipated because human resources are not available, owing to the financial constraints within the United Nations budget. In addition, as the majority of the data in the Statistical Yearbook are extracted from tapes prepared by specialized agencies or other branches of the Statistical Office, the tables have been produced after having appeared in other publications. A delay in the receipt of tables from a branch or an agency can upset the schedule for the complete publication. As shown in the annex below, significant delays in publications have been experienced. The interval between editions has been reduced, however, and it is expected that production schedules will be met in 1987.

(c) World Statistics in Brief

17. World Statistics in Brief, published since 1978, is an annual compilation of basic international statistics. The data for this publication are taken from the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, the Statistical Yearbook and other major statistical publications. Starting with the seventh edition, World Statistics in Brief has

been photocomposed using Compugraphic equipment within the Statistical Office and printed by the Printing Section of the United Nations Secretariat. Except for occasional delays due to staff turnover, it has been published regularly, as shown in the annex below.

2. Specialized yearbooks

(a) Demographic Yearbook

18. The Demographic Yearbook is a compendium of international demographic statistics for over 220 countries or areas. It has been published since 1948 and contains basic data on area, density, population and population growth rates, natality, mortality, expectation of life, nuptiality and divorce. The main results of population censuses are presented as special topics.

19. Except for some of the total population estimates by country aggregates and for regions and the world, all the data presented in the Yearbook are official figures provided by countries through the questionnaires from the Statistical Office and sometimes through national publications.

20. The data reported on the questionnaires are checked, coded and keyed into the computerized files. After being checked by computer, they are added to the master demographic files. From the master files, statistical tables for annual publication are compiled and the driver tapes for photocomposition are produced using the facility of UNSIS (see para. 9 above). From the driver tapes, an external service bureau photocomposes the camera-ready tables, which are then sent to the Printing Section of the United Nations Secretariat for photo-offset printing.

21. The Demographic Yearbook has been produced fairly regularly and without significant delays. The main factor affecting the timeliness of future issues will be the time required for printing and for the later stages in its production, which include binding and distribution. These steps are beyond the control of the Statistical Office.

(b) Construction Statistics Yearbook

22. The Construction Statistics Yearbook is an annual compilation of statistics on construction activity and presents data for over 130 countries or areas. It has been published since 1974 and was called the Yearbook of Construction Statistics until the 1981 edition. The latest issue, the 1983 edition, contains tables on general indicators of construction activity, fixed assets, building and dwelling construction authorized and completed, and index numbers of construction activity.

23. The primary source of data for the Yearbook is the annual questionnaire on construction statistics. Prefilled questionnaires are sent to countries that have previously provided data; other countries receive blank questionnaires.

24. Data provided on the questionnaire forms are keyed into the computer and merged into the master file, from which annual tables are compiled and printed. The computer printouts are then sent to the Printing Section of the United Nations Secretariat for photo-offset printing.

25. The Construction Statistics Yearbook has been published regularly.

(c) Energy Statistics Yearbook

26. The Energy Statistics Yearbook, formerly called World Energy Supplies (until the 1979 edition), has been published since 1952. It presents an internationally comparable series on commercial energy, summarizing world energy trends. The latest issue, the 1984 edition, contains annual data to the end of 1984 on the production, trade and consumption of solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and electricity. Global and regional totals and per capita consumption series are also included, as are data on energy reserves and energy prices.

27. Data for the Yearbook are collected primarily through annual questionnaires distributed by the Statistical Office, supplemented by official national statistical publications. Where official data are not available or are inconsistent, estimates are made by the Statistical Office based on governmental, professional or commercial materials.

28. After the data have been collected and updated, they are cross-checked for consistency and converted to standard energy units. After the verifications and revisions have been completed, the data are merged into the data base, processed and analysed to ensure their validity. The updating, correcting and retrieval of data in the energy statistics data base are managed by UNSIS. This system is also used to generate the tables in the Yearbook for photocomposition.

29. The production cycle of the Energy Statistics Yearbook starts at the beginning of the second quarter of each year with the preparation and mailing of the questionnaires to countries, and ends in the first quarter of the following year with the release of the manuscript for printing. The Yearbook has been published regularly without delays.

(d) Industrial Statistics Yearbook

30. The Industrial Statistics Yearbook, formerly called the Yearbook of Industrial Statistics, consists of two volumes. Volume I contains general industrial statistics providing basic country data, as well as index numbers of industrial production and a selection on indicators showing global and regional trends in industrial activity. Volume II deals specifically with the annual statistics of production of industrial commodities.

31. The main sources of data for volume I, General Industrial Statistics, are the annual general industrial statistics questionnaire for basic data and the index of industrial production questionnaire for indexes, which are sent to countries

prefilled by computer and tailored for each country based on previous responses. The data provided by countries are verified and supplemented by statistics from national publications whenever available. The information thus collected is keyed into the magnetic tape file and scrutinized by a validity checking programme before being merged into the master file. Computer printouts are obtained from the master file and forwarded to the Printing Section of the United Nations Secretariat for photo-offset printing.

32. The primary source of data for volume II, Commodity Production Statistics, is the industrial commodity production questionnaire, which is sent to countries, prefilled by the computer and tailored for each respondent country. Until the 1981 edition, volume II was produced in the same way as volume I.

33. Starting with the 1982 edition, however, production of volume II was changed to the photocomposition method; its input data are first stored in an on-line data base under the control of UNSIS, a procedure similar to that used for the Energy Statistics Yearbook.

34. The major factor contributing to the delay in publishing the 1982 edition of the Industrial Statistics Yearbook was the initial work involved in setting up the data base for volume II under UNSIS, which consumed a considerable amount of time. Since then, efforts have been made to return to the original processing and publication schedule. However, another difficulty has been faced in that the deadline for submission of the manuscript to the Printing Section falls close to the start of the work on General Assembly documents, which are given higher priority than the Yearbook. The printing of the Yearbook has often to be postponed until after the General Assembly. To alleviate the situation, the possibility of an earlier deadline for submitting the manuscript is being considered, but because this would involve a loss of country coverage for those respondents that cannot meet the earlier deadline, the proposal requires further evaluation.

(e) International Trade Statistics Yearbook

35. The International Trade Statistics Yearbook has been issued since 1951 and consists of two volumes. It was entitled Yearbook of International Trade Statistics, until the 1982 edition. Volume I, Trade by Country, contains detailed data for individual countries and basic summary tables showing, inter alia, the contribution of the trade of each country to the trade of its region and of the world. Volume II, Trade by Commodity: Commodity Matrix Tables, provides special commodity tables showing total world imports and exports of commodities at the group level of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) by country, and commodity-by-country trade matrices for a particular year.

36. The processing of trade data received from reporting countries, either in a machine-readable format or prepared from machine tabulations or national publications, is carried out by the Trade Statistics Unit of the Statistical Office outposted at Geneva, on the computer of the International Computing Centre. The final results stored in the Commodity Trade Data Base (COMTRADE) are transmitted to the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat by communication satellite

and stored in the COMTRADE data base of the New York Computing Service. The tables published in volumes I and II of the International Trade Statistics Yearbook are created using the facility of UNSIS to generate bilingual photocomposed pages. This method has been used since the 1978 edition. The printing of the Yearbook is done by the Printing Section of the United Nations Secretariat.

37. The International Trade Statistics Yearbook has been produced at regular annual intervals, with the exception of the 1983 edition; the delay was due to the late receipt of national data from key reporting countries.

38. The Statistical Office has also published the World Trade Annual (five volumes) and its Supplement (five volumes) since 1963. Data in these publications are classified according to the revised SITC for the years 1963 to 1979 and according to SITC Revision 2 for 1980 onwards. The publications contain international trade data reported from 24 developed market economies. An external publishing company prints and sells these publications.

(f) National accounts statistics

39. National accounts statistics are at present issued in two annual publications: National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables and National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, which have replaced volumes I and II of the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, starting with the 1982 edition. An open-ended series of compendia are also published at longer intervals; they are specialized elaborations of the statistics included in the two annual volumes and include National Accounts Statistics: Government Accounts and Tables, the Compendium of Income Distribution Statistics and the Compendium of Input-Output Statistics.

40. The publication National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables (formerly called Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, volume I, Individual Country Data) contains detailed national accounts estimates for more than 160 countries and areas of the world. Most countries report data that conform to the System of National Accounts (SNA). The countries with centrally planned economies report data according to the specifications in the System of Material Product Balances (MPS). The publication National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates (formerly called Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, volume II, International Tables) contains twelve analytical tables showing estimates of total and per capita gross domestic product and net material product for more than 160 countries and areas; principal income aggregates and their interrelationships; and percentage distribution, growth rates and implicit price deflators of gross domestic product and net material product, by type of expenditure and by kind of economic activity. It also shows world and regional estimates for the tables. The publication National Accounts Statistics: Government Accounts and Tables has been issued twice, in 1982 and 1983, and contains detailed information on the general government and its subsectors for 37 selected countries. When that publication and National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables are used together, it is feasible to carry out an analysis of the effects of government policies on other sectors of the economy,

their interaction, and the impact of the government sector on the whole economy. The Compendium of Income Distribution Statistics, first published in 1986, contains income distribution data tabulations for 57 countries and provides a basis for future studies on methods of improving the quality of statistics on income distribution. The Compendium of Input-Output Statistics, which will be published in late 1986, contains detailed input-output data for 16 countries and serves as a source of information for future discussions on international standards in the field of input-output compilation.

41. The source data for the above-mentioned publications of the National Accounts Statistics Series are collected primarily through the annual national accounts statistics questionnaire which is sent to more than 175 countries and areas and supplemented by official national publications, research papers and additional specialized sources. The questionnaires are prefilled by computer and include data that have been previously reported. In addition to the data obtained earlier and kept on file, some estimates are prepared by the Statistical Office for countries with partial or no national accounts data. These estimates are based on the most recent economic indicators available from national and international sources and are used in the calculation of analytical measures shown in National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates.

42. The data collected are transferred through key to disk data entry to the magnetic tapes, checked and edited by computer and merged into the master file. After tabulations for all the countries have been completed, the output tapes are photocomposed by a service bureau, and the camera-ready tables are sent to the Printing Section of the United Nations Secretariat for offset printing.

43. In 1980, the content of the questionnaire was revised and the number of tables was increased from 17 to 55. While not all the countries responded to the request for additional information, there has been a substantial increase in data provided by countries, which must be checked and processed. To alleviate the sudden increase in the workload, an arrangement was made with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which also collects and publishes national accounts statistics from its member countries, by which OECD would assume the processing of the data reported in the questionnaires from its member countries and send the checked data tapes to the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. However, even with this arrangement, because of the necessary initial programming for conversion, editing and tabulation, the publication of the 1982 edition of the three publications, initially expected in 1984, was postponed to 1985.

44. In 1983, programming work started for the production of all the tables of National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates through photocomposition, using UNSIS. Until the 1982 edition, the tables for this publication were produced by photo-offsetting computer printouts (with the exception of two tables that were photocomposed by a service bureau). Progress in this transition to photocomposition was slow owing to insufficient programming resources and the sophisticated nature of the programmes needed for the calculation of world and regional analytical indicators (such as growth rates). Consequently, the 1983 edition of National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates had

to be absorbed into the 1984 edition (the 1983-1984 edition was issued in 1986). It is anticipated that this publication will once again be published annually, starting in 1987.

45. If the increase in the data collected continues, the Statistical Office will not be able to process and publish all the data reported annually on the questionnaires. A likely solution to this problem would be to reduce the frequency of collecting and publishing some of the data at present collected annually. This would also reduce the reporting burden on countries submitting data.

3. Other compendia

46. Besides the various yearbooks, the Statistical Office prepares two other recurrent publications: Population and Vital Statistics Report, issued on a quarterly basis, and Commodity Trade Statistics, issued annually.

47. Population and Vital Statistics Report, published quarterly, contains statistics for over 220 countries or areas. It presents summary data for the latest census, recent population estimates, and birth, death and infant mortality statistics.

48. The statistics published in Population and Vital Statistics Report come from the same master demographic files as those appearing in the Demographic Yearbook, but they are published sooner since the publication is updated on a quarterly basis. After the statistics are updated on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October, a driver tape for photocomposition is produced utilizing the facility of UNSIS. From the driver tapes, an external service bureau photocomposes the camera-ready tables, which are then sent to the Printing Section of the United Nations Secretariat for photo-offset printing.

49. The Report is generally produced on time. Preparation by the Statistical Office is completed within a week to 10 days. The main factor affecting the timeliness of the publication is the demand for printing facilities. A delay in the release date is usually experienced for the 1 October issue because of the higher priority given to General Assembly documents. The other issues are generally available six weeks after the data become available.

50. The publication Commodity Trade Statistics consists of tables showing annual and quarterly external trade data for all countries that provide data according to SITC. The tables are issued in fascicles of about 360 pages as national annual data become available. The publication has been photocomposed since 1974. Since 1985, it has been produced directly from the data base by laser printer. Commodity Trade Statistics is also available on microfiche on a subscription basis. Data are available for annual periods since 1967 and for cumulative quarterly periods since 1976.

B. Dissemination of international statistical data through media other than publications

51. In addition to dissemination in printed form, statistical data are made available to certain users through various media, such as microfiche, magnetic tape and, on a more limited scale, diskettes or floppy disks and on-line access to data bases.

1. Microfiche

52. Many of the publications prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat are available on microfiche. The Publishing Division produces United Nations publications on microfiche for the convenience of a limited number of consumers. In addition to international trade statistics, the major yearbooks of the Statistical Office and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (1947 to 1980) are currently available in microfiche form.

53. The text of the microfiche offered for sale is in negative, the title in positive; enlargement will show the text in positive form. Each fiche measures 105 mm x 148 mm (4" x 6") and contains up to 60 frames at a reduction of 20:1; each is enclosed in an individual protective envelope.

2. Magnetic tapes and diskettes

54. The Statistical Office has provided data on magnetic tape for more than 20 years. At present, data tapes are available for the following types of statistics: external trade statistics, demographic statistics, special population estimates, energy statistics, maritime transport statistics, general industrial statistics, index numbers of industrial production, national accounts statistics and world development statistics. Other international statistical organizations also produce data on magnetic tapes, and there have been exchanges among them of data on tape, free of charge. Tapes have been made available to users outside international organizations on a cost basis. Recently, special data bases on women and youth have been produced on a microcomputer and stored on approximately 15 diskettes. These diskettes are being made available, on an experimental basis, to qualified users who own IBM-PC compatible microcomputers and Lotus 1-2-3 software.

55. A set of standard prices for these products is maintained by the Statistical Office and updated from time to time. The current list of products and prices is provided at the end of the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics. Certain categories of users are given a discount. Governments of Member States receive a 40 per cent discount. Other not-for-profit bodies, including government-associated councils, boards and associations, as well as universities and research organizations, receive a 20 per cent discount. Service bureaux, which provide access to their customers on a commercial basis, are required to pay four times the standard price.

3. On-line access

56. Several organizations of the United Nations system have started to provide on-line access to their data bases. The Statistical Office maintains the data base of international trade statistics in a compressed form called COMTRADE at the International Computing Centre at Geneva and allows on-line access to users of international trade statistics. The present users include six agencies of the United Nations system, four agencies of international organizations outside the United Nations system and two agencies of Governments of Member States. It is expected that during 1986 COMTRADE will be installed in the New York Computing Service also.

II. IMPROVING THE DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICS

A. Improving the timeliness of data dissemination

57. Improving the timeliness of the dissemination of statistical data is one of the major continuing concerns of any statistical office. The Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat has been trying to improve the timeliness of its publications for many years. While some publications have been produced in a highly efficient manner, others have continually encountered obstacles, despite the fact that every possible effort has been made in the Statistical Office to produce them in a timely way. Timeliness, or lack of it, originates at any one of the following four stages:

- (a) Supplying national data to the Statistical Office, either directly, through other agencies or through national publications;
- (b) Processing and compiling data in the Statistical Office, manually or by electronic data processing;
- (c) Printing;
- (d) Distribution.

The first stage is primarily controlled by national statistical organizations; the third and fourth stages are controlled by units of the United Nations other than the Statistical Office. The second stage alone is under the control of the Statistical Office.

1. Supplying national data to the Statistical Office

58. In most of the tables of recurrent statistical publications, with the exception of the estimates made by the United Nations or other international organizations, national data are provided to the Statistical Office directly, through other organizations or through national publications. Although timeliness of delivery of the data varies considerably from one country to another, data from developing countries are often old upon receipt.

59. The timing of the mailing of the questionnaires and the time that elapses between mailing them and their return varies from one publication to another. To reduce the burden on the reporting countries, most of the questionnaires from the Statistical Office are prefilled on computer printout sheets. Still, questionnaires are often returned only partially filled in and further correspondence is then necessary to get as much of the latest data as possible. Normally, a deadline for each publication is set after which no incoming data are included in a particular publication. This practice is particularly necessary for keeping the time schedule set for each step in the process. It should be noted, however, that recent uses of the on-line data base and in-house photocomposition techniques have permitted the inclusion of data until the final production of tables. This has helped to increase the percentage of data in a publication that actually relate to the year appearing in the title.

2. Processing and compiling data in the Statistical Office

60. When national data are received by the Statistical Office, either from national statistical offices or from international organizations, they must be checked upon receipt and are often subject to manual classification and coding before being entered into the computer system and processed further (conversion of units, aggregation, index numbers etc.); the relevant data are retrieved and reported in the tables to be published according to the time schedule established for each publication.

61. Processing procedures currently adapted to the publications of the Statistical Office vary from publication to publication. Details of procedures for individual recurrent publications are provided in section I above.

62. The main objectives of the recent efforts made in computerization are the timely publication of statistics and the improvement of their content by (a) utilizing photocomposition and (b) expanding the capability of UNSIS. As a result of these efforts, most of the recurrent publications are now produced using photocomposition technology, except for the Construction Statistics Yearbook and Industrial Statistics Yearbook, volume I, General Industrial Statistics, the photocomposition of which will be started soon.

63. The United Nations Statistical Information System (UNSIG) is a statistical data base management system which stores and manages statistical data (aggregates) in different subject areas in a uniform manner in integrated data bases. This system can potentially provide users with country profiles across subject areas or with ad hoc tabulations on specific subjects for all countries or areas throughout the world for a specific year or in time-series, upon demand. It has also a facility for generating outputs ready for photocomposition.

64. The transfer of data from magnetic tape files to UNSIS data bases is proceeding gradually on a phased basis. This is necessary because the initial setting-up of a data base requires a considerable amount of manual data entry as well as a series of testing of the publication control parameters which define formats of the output tables being produced. Whether or not data are stored in

UNISIS data bases, the publication facilities of UNISIS are extensively utilized for the photocomposition of most of the recurrent publications, including the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, the Statistical Yearbook, the Demographic Yearbook, the Energy Statistics Yearbook, Industrial Statistics Yearbook, volume II; Commodity Production Statistics and the International Trade Statistics Yearbook.

65. Once a data base for a particular subject area is established under UNISIS management, retrieval of data for the production of tables on a regular basis, as well as on an ad hoc basis, can basically be done very quickly.

3. Printing

66. The responsibility for printing and publishing United Nations publications, including statistical publications, lies with the Publishing Division of the Department of Conference Services. In recent years, the Publishing Division has greatly increased the amount of printing done internally and this has sometimes led to conflicting priorities. During the period from September to December, the internal printing capacity is fully devoted to documentation for the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies - delays in the printing of publications of five to six months and longer have therefore occurred.

67. Steps have been taken to set up more accurate planning with the services in charge of printing at the United Nations Secretariat and to make every effort to submit materials for printing before the summer to avoid conflict with the documentation schedule for the General Assembly. The Statistical Office and the Publishing Division have devised improved procedures for preparing materials for printing.

4. Distribution of publications

68. Once publications are released in New York, it takes at least a month, often two or three months, to make them available to subscribers outside North America. Other than speeding up the mailing from New York, the only way of improving timeliness is to send publications by air mail or air freight, which would require a substantial increase in the subscription rate.

B. Improvements in the content of publications

69. During the past several years, a number of changes have been introduced in the content of recurrent publications of the Statistical Office. These improvements include the increased use of bilingual texts, the introduction of graphics, new tables on particular series, improvements in the scope and coverage of the publications, improved timeliness and a better quality of presentation. The examples given below illustrate some aspects of the improvements.

70. An effort has been made in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics to increase the number of countries for which it provides data. The number of special tables

continues to expand. For example, data on international prices were published in three parts over a period of several months. During the past few years, the number of tables produced by the photocomposition method has increased, improving the overall appearance of the publication.

71. During the past few years, a number of new tables have been introduced into the Statistical Yearbook. These include tables on the external debt of developing countries, government sector statistics, socio-economic development assistance through the United Nations system and the international comparison of gross domestic product at average international prices. Also included are new tables on the daily consumption of protein and calories, illiteracy, and the availability of libraries. The presentation of the publication has been improved by dividing it into sections which distinguish between data of a general socio-economic nature and those relating to selected activities and commodity groups. Extensive explanatory notes relating to the tables have been moved to the end of the Yearbook and the introduction regularly includes a brief description of the world economy.

72. During the past five years, several improvements have been made in the preparation of the Demographic Yearbook. Photocomposition of the special topic tables shown in various issues began with the Historical Supplement, issued in 1979. Special topic tables were photocomposed according to the following schedule: census tabulations, including those on economic characteristics: 1979 Yearbook; mortality: 1980 Yearbook; fertility: 1981 Yearbook; nuptiality and divorce: 1982 Yearbook. Only a few tables on international migration remain to be photocomposed. The number of countries or areas for which detailed demographic data are available has increased in recent years. For example, 119 countries or areas have already reported economic characteristics from 1980 rounds of population censuses. Moreover, the time from collection of data to its receipt by the Statistical Office has decreased in recent years.

73. A number of improvements have been introduced in the content of the Energy Statistics Yearbook since 1980. The 1979 issue (entitled Yearbook of World Energy Statistics) was the first publication of the Statistical Office processed with UNSIS. After overcoming initial problems of adapting to procedures for processing and compiling the data, the Statistical Office is now in a position to provide its users with up-to-date energy data, including information on production, trade, conversion and consumption. The magnetic tape corresponding to the Yearbook is available at the end of the year following the last reporting year: 1985 data are included in the tape available at the end of December 1986; the manuscript of the Yearbook is sent for printing three to four months later.

74. Concerning the coverage of the Energy Statistics Yearbook, a number of additional tables have been introduced over the past five years. Moreover, the following graphs (bar charts) were introduced in the 1983 issue: World consumption of commercial energy by commodity for selected years; and Production of primary solid fuels, by type; Production and consumption of crude petroleum, by region; Production and trade of natural gas, by region; and Production of electricity, by type - all for 1983.

75. Beginning with the 1982 edition, data for the Industrial Statistics Yearbook has been transferred to UNSIS, facilitating the photocomposition of the publication. The new method of production has accounted for significant improvements in quality. The introduction of headings in French and of several new tables containing data on minerals has improved the content of the publication.

76. Until the 1980 edition, the Yearbook of Construction Statistics was produced manually. This meant that the questionnaire to countries was filled with appropriate data manually, historical data were maintained manually and each page of the publication itself was retyped in its entirety each year and printed by photo-offsetting. The computerization of the Yearbook took several years. The first computer-produced edition was the 1980 issue, and it showed a great improvement in the quality of presentation. The questionnaire is now also computer-produced.

C. Distribution of publications

77. The primary consideration in the production of statistical publications is the dissemination of statistics. In this connection, the free distribution of publications is a major element. There are both official and departmental lists of recipients to which such publications are distributed free of charge. The official list includes units of Governments of Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies, departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat, information centres, the press, and meetings and conference services. Publications are distributed to those on the official list by the Distribution Section of the Publishing Division of the Department of Conference Services, in accordance with the general distribution policies set by the Publications Board.

78. The substantive departments of the Secretariat are also permitted to maintain departmental lists for the publications they produce. The list maintained by the Statistical Office includes persons or bodies that have rendered significant service in the preparation of the publication or publications to be distributed; persons or organizations that provide continuous and substantial assistance in the work of the office; and persons of eminence in the technical and methodological fields dealt with in the various publications distributed, the interest of whom it is considered important to enlist or retain.

79. In order to ensure that the recipients included in the departmental lists have received the publications sent to them, the Statistical Office plans to send a letter to individual recipients, about three months after dispatch of a publication, inquiring whether or not it has been received and, if so, when. If there is no response, then, as stated in the letter, the recipient's name will be removed from the list. Aside from providing data for updating the mailing list, this process should help to identify possible delays in distribution.

D. Promotional activities

80. Several promotional activities have been conducted to improve the dissemination of the statistical publications in collaboration with the Sales Section of the Publishing Division of the Department of Conference Services. A description of those activities was given in the report of the Secretary-General on meeting user needs for, and improving the dissemination of, international statistics (E/CN.3/1985/2), submitted to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-third session.

81. A recent initiative taken by the Sales Section for reaching potential users is the use of direct mail targeted at existing purchasers of United Nations publications as well as at new ones. For this purpose, a direct mail computer data base has been developed, which stores information on old and new customers. Over 200,000 copies of a catalogue that contains a list of all United Nations publications are distributed annually to those addresses stored in the direct mail data base.

82. The Statistical Office Newsletter is issued monthly to national and international statistical organizations, other statistical organizations, and field experts involved in technical co-operation projects, informing them of current developments in the various substantive activities of the Statistical Office. In recent issues of the Newsletter, more space has been given to publicizing Statistical Office publications, including listings of new issues of publications and summaries of the content of recurrent publications and some of the methodological studies.

83. An experimental arrangement is being sought between the Statistical Office and some of the national statistical offices, by which the national statistical offices would maintain a list of Statistical Office publications and distributed it to those who visit the national statistical office or who make inquiries about international statistics. The arrangement also includes an experiment under which a set of recent Statistical Office publications would be displayed in a show-case along with the publications of the national statistical office.

III. COMMENTS OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES ON THE USE OF STATISTICAL OFFICE PUBLICATIONS

84. The Statistical Office, at the suggestion of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination at its eleventh session, requested national statistical offices to provide their comments on the use of the publications of the Statistical Office. A summary of the responses to that request is provided below.

85. Several offices stated that since national statistical offices were basically producers of statistics, not users, they were not in a position to comment on the quality of statistics available from the user's point of view.

86. Overall, replies included a mix of favorable and critical comments, both of which, however, are considered to be most constructive and useful for improving the dissemination of the publications of the Statistical Office.
87. Several of the offices mentioned that the publications prepared by the Statistical Office were often the only available source of information for making international comparisons of statistics for all countries on a particular topic and that it was often difficult to obtain timely information from over 100 countries at different stages of economic development.
88. It was noted that publications of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat were widely used by visitors to the libraries of various central statistical offices, and highly appreciated because of their unique status as world-wide statistical references.
89. Many of the specialized publications, such as methodological manuals, classifications and studies, were considered to be extremely valuable and indeed indispensable to the work of national statistical offices.
90. Some offices expressed their satisfaction about the content of data and its presentation in the publications.
91. Many of the offices, however, repeatedly called for improved timeliness as the first step in making the data provided by the Statistical Office more useful - Statistical Office publications often contained less recent data than were available elsewhere, especially in the case of data on international trade.
92. It was mentioned that, although the overall quality of the publications and the data was considered to be good, in some publications there were large amounts of data missing, and it was suggested that estimating techniques be used to complete those data sets.
93. Further critical comments indicated that some of the Statistical Office publications were difficult to use for the following reasons: the point (font) size was too small; the lines were too close together; footnotes were often separated by several pages from the text they referred to; tables of contents and indexes could be made more informative; tables needed to be better organized; explanatory footnotes should be made more substantive; and the overall quality of the publications should be improved.
94. Some users preferred using data tapes, especially in the case of trade data, where automated access is more suitable when information needs involve multiple years, products and reporting countries or trading partners. Some users of United Nations data tapes commented that some of the tapes had been formatted for producing publications, so that it was necessary to restructure them into a more useable data-base form.

95. With respect to the distribution of publications, the comments received may be summarized as follows:

(a) Some countries did not receive complementary copies;

(b) In many cases, many of the statistical publications, reports and manuals were not available in national statistical offices;

(c) In order to ensure that a particular publication actually reached all the countries it was sent to, particularly the developing countries, an inquiry by the Statistical Office would be helpful;

(d) The current catalogue of the Statistical Office was not available in some of the national statistical offices; the catalogue should be revised annually, and at least a dozen copies made available to the central statistical offices for consultation and for dispatch to other statistical organizations in the country.

96. Some replies referred to the data collection activity of the Statistical Office in conjunction with its dissemination activity:

(a) Some of the questionnaires mailed to countries arrived so late that there were only a few weeks left to fill them out; the Statistical Office should plan the dispatch of questionnaires carefully so that national statistical offices would have more time for the work involved in completing them;

(b) It was important that the data submitted by countries should be published by the Statistical Office without any changes;

(c) In developing countries, there were difficulties in reporting data because of different classifications, different base years for indices, and currency problems; therefore, even though data were available, they might not be reported in the Statistical Office questionnaires.

IV. EXPERIENCES OF OTHER STATISTICAL OFFICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICS

A. International Labour Organisation

97. ILO collects data on labour statistics for annual publications as well as for publications issued at shorter intervals (such as the Quarterly Bulletin of Labour Statistics). For annual publications, such as the Year Book of Labour Statistics, ILO sends an annual questionnaire to either the appropriate ministry or the statistical office of each member country or territory. For the 1985 edition, from a total of 185 questionnaires sent out, 120 replies were received, of which 91 were complete and 29 partially filled out.

98. In mid-1985, ILO made an assessment of the gaps in the data provided, the timeliness of the series, the need for removing some of the series from the publications and follow-up requirements. The results showed that in approximately

40 per cent of cases, some sort of follow-up action was required. ILO has found it necessary to devise a systematic means of following up initial requests - namely, periodic computerized correspondence.

99. A new publication, Statistical Sources and Methods, replaced the two-volume Technical Guide last published in 1980. This publication provides methodological descriptions of national statistics published in both the Bulletin of Labour Statistics and the Year Book of Labour Statistics, but it differs from its predecessor in that the methodological descriptions are more detailed, presented with a structured format and arranged according to the principal sources of the statistical data base.

100. The statistical data base of the ILO Bureau of Statistics consists of approximately 4 million data items and is implemented in the Statistical Analysis System (SAS), which is the data base management system. The data base is used for the computerized publication of a number of multilingual ILO publications including the Year Book of Labour Statistics, the Bulletin of Labour Statistics and Economically Active Population Estimates and Projections, 1950-2025. The methods of publication include photocomposition as well as the use of Operating Command Language (OCL) and Document Composition Facility (DCF) for driving the laser printer. The data are disseminated throughout the world on magnetic tape.

101. The present data base containing the Year Book and Bulletin data was designed for the computerized production of these publications and is used interactively only for data entry. A substantial change in the system will be required in order to render the ILO data base truly on-line and also to produce a standard tape with an updating service.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

102. Long-term series on production, trade and the utilization of food and agricultural commodities, starting with 1961, are kept under continuous review by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. There are different updating cycles which depend, to a large extent, on when information becomes available during the annual cycle.

103. Production data are updated, beginning in September, until the end of April of the following year, when they are considered to be valid enough to be published in the FAO Production Yearbook. Trade data for the preceding year start to become available in April. The bulk of trade information is filed and evaluated from June until the end of August. Data for non-reporting countries and countries reporting late are estimated on the basis of trading partners' information, commodity reports, contracts and specialized newspapers. The cut-off date for statistical information is mid-April for the Production Yearbook and mid-August for the Trade Yearbook and the release of the publications from the printers is scheduled for the end of June and the end of October, respectively.

104. There are no gaps in the yearbook tables. Whenever official figures are missing, unofficial or FAO estimates are shown and indicated accordingly. All the

statistical information is published in internationally comparable form - namely, area in hectares, quantity in metric tons, kilograms and grams, and value in United States dollars. Every effort is made to make the data consistent among countries by adhering wherever possible to the same definitions, coverage and classifications set by discussions and agreements reached in various international forums, which review the state of food and agricultural statistics in their specific regions and advise member States and FAO on the development and standardization of these statistics.

105. The annual questionnaire used for collecting production data is tailored by computer for each country; it contains only those commodities grown in that country and presents the data available in the FAO data base for preceding years, for updating and revising.

106. Most of the data on agricultural inputs, prices and economic accounts for agriculture are obtained through questionnaires, which are sent annually to countries. National publications are another important source of information. In cases where data is regularly available from other international or intergovernmental organizations, they are obtained from these sources.

107. Estimates for missing data are worked out by FAO for non-reporting countries or for countries reporting late, based on all relevant available information except for pesticide use where no filling in of the gaps is done since use of such products changes over time.

108. The FAO Statistical Division has, in an advanced stage of development, the AGROSTAT Information System, which aims at the dissemination of validated statistical information compiled by various units of FAO, both within and outside FAO headquarters.

109. Some problems in data collection have been encountered at the national level. The FAO focal contact point is the ministry of agriculture (or rural development) in all countries, whereas agricultural statistics may be under the jurisdiction of a central statistical office or other organization. There is no institutional framework through which FAO can be informed about all the available data.

C. International Civil Aviation Organization

110. The ICAO statistics programme covers 18 different civil aviation activities, for which data are regularly collected, processed and published. In all, 15 publications are issued each year, together with 6 or 7 supplements. The data collection is undertaken by means of 16 questionnaires, 1 monthly, 3 quarterly and 12 annually. Some 5,000 completed questionnaires are received each year.

111. Although only about 65 per cent of the scheduled airlines report traffic data to ICAO, the reported data account for 96 per cent or more of the world scheduled airline traffic. Thus, only a relatively small proportion of world traffic needs to be estimated by ICAO and the overall accuracy of the published statistics is of a high order.

112. Timely reporting of data remains the major concern. Experience shows that barely half the reported data are received on time. With follow-up action through reminder letters and telexes, it is possible to issue a publication only some eight to nine months after the end of the reference period. The position with regard to the timeliness of reporting should become less serious with steady improvements in postal systems and the new possibilities offered by modern telecommunications technology, which, for instance, has already made it possible for member States to transmit data on-line directly to the ICAO computer. This technology, when widely utilized, will certainly contribute to timely reporting, processing and dissemination.

113. The ICAO statistical publications are issued in both hard-copy form and electronic form. For hard-copy publications, the general production process (main printing) takes between three and four weeks. Data on tape are released to users as soon as the hard-copy material has been transmitted to the printers.

D. World Health Organization

114. The World Health Organization (WHO) collects and publishes international statistics relating to mortality by cause, mortality due to selected infectious diseases and health resources. The nature and severity of problems encountered in the dissemination of mortality data by cause of death are described below.

115. Each year, WHO receives mortality data by cause of death from about 60 countries or areas. While the coverage of developed countries is virtually complete, only a few of the developing countries of Africa and Asia regularly report cause-of-death data to WHO. In about one third of the cases, data are transmitted to WHO on magnetic tape according to a standard format. In the remaining cases, the data are transmitted via a standard questionnaire which is then entered into the computer data base at WHO headquarters at Geneva. In some cases, the questionnaire is completed at WHO headquarters by extracting data from statistical yearbooks or annual health publications.

116. The policy of waiting until a substantial number of countries send data for a particular calendar year before publishing them was changed in 1975. At present, up-to-date information is included in World Health Statistics Annual which indicates the year of publication in the title. The publication is now issued at the end of each calendar year in an attempt to improve the timeliness of the information provided.

117. While there are no firm deadlines for obtaining information from countries on cause of death, the optimal timetable would enable editors to include data for the preceding year in the current edition of World Health Statistics Annual. At present, this is only possible for a few countries.

118. The lack of reliable information on causes of death continues to be the most important problem faced by WHO in this regard. For most developing countries, death registration is either non-existent or incomplete, and where registration systems are in operation, the classification of the cause of death is either omitted or unverified.

119. The Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000 includes periodic monitoring and evaluation of its implementation at the national, regional and global levels. For this purpose, a set of 12 indicators has been chosen by the World Health Assembly. In accordance with a plan of action adopted by the Assembly, countries carried out and reported on their first experiences in monitoring their progress in 1983 and the first evaluation of achievements in 1985. These national reports were subsequently consolidated into reports for the six WHO regions and finally into a global report. The regional and global reports on the first evaluation of the Strategy will be published during 1986 and 1987; statistical data on the indicators will also be included in the 1986 issue of World Health Statistics Annual. These reports have confirmed the existence of certain persistent problems in national mechanisms for collecting, analysing and using relevant information for the management of health systems. The report will be used for supporting the strengthening of national capabilities for monitoring and evaluation.

E. World Bank

120. The major formal data collection efforts of the World Bank cover the area of external debt statistics received from borrowing member Governments who are required to provide details of each long-term loan incurred by a public agency or by a private agency with a public guarantee. Private sector debts not so guaranteed are reported in the aggregate. Collectively, this reporting system is known as the Debt Reporting System. Under an agreement with other organizations of the United Nations system, the information is shared, aggregated to a level that ensures confidentiality.

121. Although the Bank does not formally collect economic and social data from member Governments through questionnaires, its economic staff, on their visits to countries, have collected an extensive amount of macro-economic, social and demographic data over the years. During those visits, the data collected, which includes preliminary estimates in many instances, are reviewed with national government agencies and refined. Methodological details and clarifications are obtained. Therefore, the resulting statistics used in the Bank country economic reports are more timely, somewhat more refined, and generally useful for analysis. Several elements of these data sets, especially for national accounts, are then published in the Bank's principal statistical publications.

122. The Bank is thus in a unique position in that its contacts with national Governments on data issues are direct and not dependent on responses to questionnaires. Furthermore, the multi-sectorial interests of the Bank enable the accessing of data from a variety of organizations, sometimes outside the formal statistical system. Again, because of the Bank's interest in analysis, research and cross-sector concerns, it has been able to identify and give advice on steps needed to strengthen statistical systems.

F. International Monetary Fund

123. In 1985, IMF continued its efforts to enhance the coverage, comprehensiveness, timeliness, and quality of statistics in International Financial Statistics (IFS) and the Fund's monthly statistical publications, as well as in its other statistical publications: Balance of Payments Statistics, Direction of Trade Statistics and Government Finance Statistics Yearbook. Particular emphasis has been placed on improvements in the timeliness of data. To this end, in concluding the article IV consultations with member countries, the Fund's Executive Board emphasized the importance of current and high quality statistics for the purposes of economic analysis by policy makers in individual countries as well as at the global level.

124. IMF transmits IFS data in the form of magnetic tapes to more than 50 countries, with nearly 500 subscribers and about 25 time-sharers. Nevertheless, the monthly circulation of IFS continues at a level in excess of 12,500, of which some 5,500 copies are provided free of charge to member country authorities. IMF has not been able to accommodate the receipt of data directly in electronic form. With the completion early in 1987 of a new data management system, the Economic Information System (EIS), an on-line entry and retrieval system, the opportunities for computer-to-computer links will become more favourable. With the completion of EIS, increased attention will be given to dissemination in other forms, such as diskettes.

V. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

125. The Statistical Commission may wish to:

(a) Comment on the production practices related to recurrent publications prepared by the Statistical Office;

(b) Suggest effective ways to improve the content, timeliness and dissemination of those publications.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 6 (E/1985/26), para. 17.

Annex

DATE OF ISSUE OF THE ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS OF
 THE UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL OFFICE

Publication	Edition			
	1981	1982	1983	1984
Statistical Yearbook	Aug. 1983	May 1985	Oct. 1986 <u>a/</u>	
Construction Statistics Yearbook	Jan. 1984	Jan. 1985	Dec. 1985	Dec. 1986*
Demographic Yearbook	Mar. 1983	Mar. 1984	Feb. 1985	Apr. 1986
Energy Statistics Yearbook	Apr. 1983	May 1984	May 1985	May 1986
Industrial Statistics Yearbook	Nov. 1983	Apr. 1985	Mar. 1986	Dec. 1986*
International Trade Statistics Yearbook	Apr. 1983	Aug. 1984	Nov. 1985	June 1986
National Accounts Statistics:				
Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables	Oct. 1983	Mar. 1985	May 1986	Apr. 1987*
Analysis of Main Aggregates	Oct. 1983	Mar. 1985	Oct. 1986 <u>a/</u>	
Government Accounts and Tables		Mar. 1985	May 1986	May 1987*
World Statistics in Brief	Dec. 1981	Mar. 1983	Dec. 1983	Aug. 1985

* Estimate.

a/ 1983/84 combined edition.