

News from statistical offices

Austria

Meetings

A meeting of the Eurostat Agricultural Statistical Committee is planned in connection with a seminar on the conversion of the agricultural statistics of the Central and Eastern European states towards the requirements of the European Union. The meeting is scheduled to take place in Vienna from 8 to 11 July 1997.

A meeting of price experts took place from 12 to 14 May to discuss purchasing power parities for transition countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The meeting discussed a new concept of data surveys in the production area as well as the preparation of a new concept of short-term indicators, a structural business census of enterprises with the introduction of EC classification systems, and the work at the new business register.

Germany

Internet home page

The Federal Statistical Office has been connected to the Internet for some time. The home page address is as follows: <http://www.statistik-bund.de>.

E-mail

A connection to the Berlin Advanced Training Centre can be established by e-mail under the following address: 03023245-0001@t-online.de. In case of sending information to this e-mail address, files should be compressed in 'winzip' only.

Portugal

Publications

The Portuguese National Statistical Institute (INE) has now a new quarterly publication called "Revista de Estatística" (Statistical Review).

The main purpose of this review, as a scientific publication, is to publish articles concerning:

- Statistical research and analysis;
- Study of the economic, social and demographic domains.

It will also disseminate information about relevant activities and projects developed in the framework of the National Statistical System; statistical co-operation actions developed by INE in both bilateral and multilateral level; meetings, seminars and conferences of statistical interest, organized both in Portugal and abroad.

Research papers are submitted to the Editorial Council for evaluation in or-

der to decide on their publication.

For further information, please contact Mr. Ferreira da Cunha, Director of the Statistical Review (phone: (+351-1) 847 0050, extension 3905; fax: (+351-1) 795 1508).

Turkey

New appointment

Mr. Mehmet Sýddýk ENSARÝ was appointed as the President of the State Institute of Statistics (SIS) on 25 June 1996.

Bilateral cooperation

In the framework of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Project on Management Development for Kyrgyzstan, SIS has arranged a study tour program for five experts from Kyrgyzstan. The objective of this study tour was to assist the Government in the design of policies and procedures in developing the national statistical capacity for Macroeconomics Management.

For the purpose of providing technical assistance to Caucasian and Central Asian Republics, SIS organized a series of workshops in collaboration with OECD in the framework of the European Comparison Program (ECP). The fourth workshop on Purchasing Power Parities Consultation for the Commonwealth of Independent (CIS) States and Turkey was held from 19 to 22 December 1996 at SIS.

A cooperation protocol was signed between SIS of Turkey, the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and the State Institute of Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina to collabo-

rate in the field of statistics and to strengthen the technical capability of the staff of SIS of Bosnia and Herzegovina through training activities and consultancy services.

A fact finding mission from SIS has visited the State Statistical Office of Mongolia to discuss about possible areas of bilateral cooperation between two institutions and to determine the priorities for statistical collaboration.

A cooperation protocol was jointly prepared by SIS and the Statistical Office of Macedonia to implement a technical assistance program for the Statistical Office of Macedonia. Seven major areas in the field of statistics were determined for the 1997 work plan. This programme will be carried out by SIS through on-the-job training and short-term visits during 1997.

In 1996, SIS experts visited the Statistical Offices of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan to carry out the consultancy services on Agricultural and Industrial Statistics and National Accounts.

In the framework of Projects on Strengthening the Statistical Activities in Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, the "Statistical Yearbook of Azerbaijan, 1994" and the "Population Census of Turkmenistan, 1995" were redesigned and published at SIS.

Cooperation with international organizations

Turkey subscribed to the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) and SIS is the coordinator organization in Turkey which provides metadata to the Data Standard Bulletin Board of IMF.

Meetings and conferences

A working group meeting on exchange for statistical data and economic information for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Countries was held at SIS in April 1997 to discuss the alternative proposals for exchanging statistical data and economic information and improving the communication channels between statistical organizations and the BSEC Coordination Center.

The 51st Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) was held in Istanbul from 18 to 26 August 1997 under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Turkey and the responsibility of the State Institute of Statistics of Turkey. The Session provided a forum for the international exchange of knowledge between participants, and also aimed to encourage the international integration of statistics by establishing world-wide relations between statistical societies and other official and non-official organizations concerned.

United Kingdom*Change of address*

From 2 January, the Office for National Statistics moved to new offices in London. The new address is:

Office for National Statistics,
1 Drummond Gate,
London SW1V 2QQ,
United Kingdom.

Switchboard: (+ 44-171) 233 9233.

ONS Business Charter

The Office for National Statistics launched its first Business Charter in 1996. For providers of data, it lists measures for reducing the burdens on business, such as more efficient sampling, exploiting new technology, compliance planning, and survey holidays. For users of data, ONS is committed to improving consultation and to improving the presentation and accessibility of data.

Tim Holt, Director of the ONS, has said: "The Charter is an important contribution towards the central Citizen's Charter and Deregulation initiatives. It demonstrates ONS's commitment to the recommendations of the recent Osmotherly Group report on easing the burdens of statistical surveys to benefit business whilst ensuring that essential statistics continue to be delivered."

*New publications**Consumer trends*

The Office for National Statistics has launched a new quarterly publication, "Consumer Trends". It replaces a previous publication in the Business Monitor series, "MQ24". "Consumer Trends" presents for the first time comprehensive results of the Consumers' Expenditure compilation exercise together with a description of the underlying economic factors which are affecting the consumer sector. Tables describing the other factors which affect the sector are also shown.

The main Consumers' Expenditure data set consists of tables breaking down households' expenditure to its most detailed level, by commodity. This consists of about 115 time series,

each shown at current and constant prices and in seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted versions. Series go back to 1988 in the paper publication and most have electronic equivalents on the ONS Databank going back to 1963. All data are consistent with published national accounts aggregates. A descriptive section describes trends in the series. Notes on sources, methods and definitions are also included.

“Consumer Trends” also contains a new section which describes the overall economic environment within the consumer sector, pulling together the most important underlying factors believed to reflect consumers behaviour.

Guide to Official Statistics

The “Guide to Official Statistics”, published last year on paper and CD-ROM, is now available on the Internet. The guide, which gives details of all economic and social information available from the Government Statistical Service and other official organisations in the United Kingdom, can be found on <http://www.emap.co.uk/ons/>.

Statistics Advisory Committee

The Statistics Advisory Committee held its first meeting on 30 July, and

has met twice since. The committee has been established to provide the Director of the Office for National Statistics with independent and authoritative advice on the statistical work of the Office, on annual corporate targets and on his responsibilities as Head of the Government Statistical Service. It comprises 20 members from a wide range of user and supplier backgrounds acting in a personal capacity. It meets three times a year. Members will serve up to three years each, and appointments are renewable for one further term.

The committee works to an annual programme comprising: a long-term look ahead each September to help shape the next ONS business plan; a one-year look ahead each February to help shape ONS corporate targets; and a review each May as input to the annual ONS report to Parliament. The committee also considers at each meeting additional specific issues of interest.

More information is available from the Secretary, Nigel Edison, on (+ 44-171) 533 6210. The minutes are available on the Internet on <http://www.emap.co.uk/ons/>.