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PRESS RELEASE

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

COMMON MARKET PUBLISHES NEW SERIES ON REGIONAL STATISTICS

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 4 -- The Statistical Office of the European Communities is publishing for the first time a volume of the main statistics on the different aspects of the economic and social life of the Community's regions, in order to meet the growing needs for quantified data as the common regional policy develops.

The current yearbook, Regional Statistics - 1971, is a first step in the assembly, arrangement, and coordination of regional statistics available in the six member countries of the Common Market -- Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. The quantity and quality of the data will be increased in future yearbooks, and particular attention will be devoted to improving the international comparability of the statistics.

The 1971 yearbook provides data on a regional basis on population and manpower, regional product, foreign trade, agriculture, industry, trade and hotels, transport, credit institutions, standard of living, and the Community's financial participation in investment. It also includes graphs on regional disparities in per capita domestic product and a number of maps on regional migration, population density, levels of female and agricultural employment, agricultural land utilized, roads, railroads, navigable waterways, ports, and airports.

For the most part, figures are for 1968, or the closest year for which statistical information is available. Historical series have been confined to a few fundamental areas, such as population, unemployment, and domestic product.

The Washington Information Office is taking orders for the yearbook which will be available in July. The text is in five languages: English, German, French, Italian, and Dutch. The price is \$2.00.

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