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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

3	Foreword
	PART 1 - NEWS ITEMS
6	Consumer price index in the Community
7	Latest statistics on national accounts 1974
8	The Lomé convention states and world trade
9	Primary energy production in 1975
11	Conference of the Directors-General of National Statistical Institutes
13	Employment statistics programme
16	SOEC Seminar on multipurpose social surveys and subjective questions
18	Seminar on road accident statistics
20	Fritz GROTIUS leaves EUROSTAT
	PART 2 - EUROSTAT PUBLICATIONS
23	Periodicals
27	Annual publications
30	Special studies and publications

FOREWORD

This booklet is the first edition of a new Eurostat publication.

It has two aims, namely to provide a certain amount of information on the work and activities of Eurostat, and to announce the appearance of Eurostat publications, so that all interested parties will be able to obtain their copies as soon as they are in print.

It has a modest budget, and to guarantee that it will appear as rapidly as possible and that its contents will be as up-to-date as possible, its presentation will be simple.

Eurostat believes that this bulletin will meet a real need of the users of its statistics, and it will be happy to receive any criticisms or suggestions for improvements to the content or the form.

As a recipient of other Eurostat publications, you will receive the first three issues of this information bulletin automatically. If you wish to continue to receive free copies regularly thereafter, please fill in the order form on the last page.



J. MAYER

Director General

PART 1 NEWS ITEMS

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX IN THE COMMUNITY

Country	December 1975 index (1970 = 100)	Increase over preceding months (%)	Increase over same month of preceding year (%)
Germany	137,1	+ 0,3	+ 5,4
France	158,2	+ 0,6	+ 9,6
Italy	179,2	+ 0,8	+ 11,2
Netherlands	157,2	+ 0,4	+ 9,0
Belgium	156,5	+ 0,5	+ 11
Luxembourg	148,3	+ 0,6	+ 10,9
United Kingdom	199,8	+ 1,3	+ 25
Ireland	192,2 *	+ 2,7 **	+ 16,8
Denmark	158,1	+ 0,1	+ 4,3
United States	143,0	+ 0,4	+ 7,0
Japan	177,2	- 0,1	+ 7,6

* November

** November/August

LATEST STATISTICS ON NATIONAL ACCOUNTS 1974 (1)

Between 1973 and 1974, the gross domestic product of the Community rose in real terms by more than 2 %. This increase in the original six member countries expanded by 3-4 % in real terms, with the exception of Germany, where the increase was only 0.4 %. In the three new member countries, too, it expanded by less than 1 %. In the United States and in Japan the gross domestic product fell by nearly 2 %.

In the same period, the GDP price index climbed sharply in all countries. Italy (+ 17 %) headed the list, followed by the United Kingdom and Belgium (+ 13 %). In the other countries the index rose by around 11-12 %, Germany being the exception with a much lower figure of 6.7 %.

Gross fixed capital formation in real terms fell between 1973 and 1974 in six of the nine countries concerned. The sharpest decline in Denmark (- 10 %), followed by Germany, Luxembourg and Ireland (7-8 %). Real gross fixed capital formation also contracted in the Netherlands, by 4 %, and in the United Kingdom, by 3 %, while expanding in Belgium and Italy by 4-6 % and in France by 3 %.

Between 1973 and 1974, "compensation of employees" expressed as a percentage of gross domestic product rose in all countries, resulting in a general narrowing of similar proportions in the "net operating surplus" of the economies. In 1974, compensation of employees accounted for 55-60 % of gross domestic product in all the countries, with the exception of the United Kingdom, where the figure was about 65 %, and of France, where it was 52 %. The figures for the net operating surplus, which includes all other income generated in the course of production, i.e. property and entrepreneurial income, also expressed as a percentage of gross domestic product, range from 27 % in Belgium to 15 % in the United Kingdom.

(1) See part 2 - latest publications on national accounts

ESA National Accounts, Aggregates 1960-1974, N° 1-1975 (page 27)

ESA National Accounts, Yearbook, N° 2-1974 (page 27)

THE LOMÉ CONVENTION STATES AND WORLD TRADE

Between 1964 and 1973 the exports of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (generally known as the ACP states), which signed the Lomé Convention of 28 February 1975, increased from 4.7 to 13.4 thousand million dollars. The increase was particularly appreciable between 1972 and 1973 (+ 35 %) as a result of the high rise in the price of raw materials, particularly oil, recorded during this period.

Analysis of the destination of exported goods reveals the efforts which the ACP states have been making since 1964 to find new markets; trade with other developing countries more than quadrupled (from 0.4 to 1.7 thousand million dollars) and that with the developed countries, not counting the Community countries, more than quintupled (from 0.9 to 4.9 thousand million dollars); exports to the Community only increased by 87 % in nine years (from 3.3 to 6.2 thousand million dollars). However, it must be pointed out that the European Economic Community is still the most important outlet for these countries' exports, although its share fell from 70 % in 1964 to 48 % in 1973. In-depth examination of trade with Europe reveals moreover that, for almost all the ACP states, trade with the former parent state (France, United Kingdom or Belgium) expanded more slowly (approximately 40 % on average) than trade with the other Member States of the Community. However, although the former parent state is still the main trading partner of each ACP state, the second country in order of trade volume is usually another EEC country (Germany or Italy) followed by a non-Community country (United States of America).

The source of this information is the ACP : Yearbook of Foreign Trade Statistics, which the Statistical Office of the European Communities has just published. (1)

(1) See part 2 Foreign Trade Statistics of ACP - Statistical Abstract : 1968-1973 (page 31)

PRIMARY ENERGY PRODUCTION IN 1975

In the context of the energy situation, there are undoubtedly more important aggregates than that of the production from primary energy sources; however, EUROSTAT considers this information of sufficient importance to warrant its publication and dissemination to interested circles. Although the figures involved are still provisional, or even to some extent estimated, especially as regards the last two months of the year, it is unlikely that they will show any change.

The first obvious factor to note is that 1975 does not depart greatly from the pattern observed in previous years : a drop in coal and an increase in natural gas and nuclear energy.

The increase recorded for coal production is not attributable to a growth in output or production capacities, but to the fact that production was exceptionally low in 1974 because of the prolonged strike of British miners.

The rate of increase in the production of natural gas did not reach levels previously recorded : whereas the Netherlands and the United Kingdom still show an increase, production for the remaining countries has started to drop, owing to the policy of conserving national energy resources and to the arrival of substantial quantities of Russian natural gas.

The considerable increase in the production of primary electrical energy is in the main due to the growth in the total number of nuclear power plants and to the effects of the improved use of sources of hydroelectric power.

Finally, the most important aspect of these initial results is the improved covering of the Community's energy requirements by the production of the individual Member States. As preliminary analyses suggest that the level of internal consumption for 1975 has dropped perceptibly as a result of the economic crisis, the degree of dependence of the Community as regards energy should be slightly below 60 %, as opposed to 61.5 % in 1974.

PRODUCTION OF PRIMARY ENERGY SOURCES

million tonnes of oil equivalent

		Hard coal	Lignite	Crude oil (a)	Natural gas	Primary electric energy	Total (b)	75/74
EUR-9	1975	166,1	26,0	12,2	134,2	47,5	387,3	+ 5,1%
	1974	156,7	26,5	11,4	130,0	42,6	368,5	
	75/74	+ 6,4%	- 1,9%	+ 7,0%	+ 3,2%	+11,5%	+ 5,1%	
	74/73	- 10,5%	+ 5,8%	- 4,3%	+ 13,8%	+12,5%	+ 0,9%	
BR Deutschland	1975	65,7	23,8	5,8	14,6	8,6	119,4	- 1,3%
	1974	67,2	24,3	6,2	15,8	6,6	121,0	
France	1975	14,3	0,9	1,8	6,1	17,5	40,7	+ 2,5%
	1974	14,6	0,9	1,9	6,4	15,8	39,7	
Italia	1975	-	0,3	1,1	12,1	10,6	24,5	+ 1,7%
	1974	-	0,3	1,1	12,8	9,6	24,1	
Nederland	1975	-	-	1,6	70,2	0,7	72,5	+ 6,9%
	1974	0,5	-	1,6	65,0	0,7	67,8	
Belgique	1975	4,8	-	-	0,0	1,7	6,5	+ 22,6%
	1974	5,2	-	-	0,0	0,1	5,3	
Luxembourg	1975	-	-	-	-	0,0	0,0	-
	1974	-	-	-	-	0,0	0,0	
United-Kingdom	1975	81,3	-	1,7	31,2	8,2	122,4	+ 12,0%
	1974	69,2	-	0,5	30,0	9,6	109,3	
Ireland	1975	0,0	(c)1,0	-	-	0,2	1,2	-
	1974	0,0	(c)1,0	-	-	0,2	1,2	
Denmark	1975	-	-	0,2	-	0,0	0,2	-
	1974	-	-	0,1	-	0,0	0,1	

(a) includes primary petroleum products

(b) includes other fuels

(c) peat

CONFERENCE OF THE DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTES

(5 - 7 November 1975)

The Conference of the Directors-General of the National Statistical Institutes of the nine Member States of the European Communities meets twice a year, generally in May and November. The aims are to hold **discussions** on the main problems of Community statistics and on new projects, and to coordinate the major projects in the various sectors.

The Conference held in November 1975 dealt primarily with the following problems.

Seasonal adjustment of data used for Community purposes

The problem was to know whether it was possible for the different countries to use differing seasonal adjustment methods and still meet Community requirements or whether the latter demanded the use of a common method. Because of the complexity and the technical nature of this problem, a specialized working party would examine the implications of selecting one or other of the solutions.

Foreign trade statistics of the Community of the Nine

The Commission had particular requirements in this sector, principally because it represented all nine countries in numerous negotiations. The Conference and Eurostat took the view that as a result of the Council's adoption of regulations standardizing methods and nomenclatures and as a result of standardization of processing and distribution mechanisms, the time taken for foreign trade statistics to reach users could be appreciably reduced in the near future.

Distributive trade statistics

The Conference had examined Eurostat's programme to coordinate statistics on the activity and structure of distributive trade enterprises within the Community, which was intended to fill a major gap in Community statistics. The work in this area would be developed progressively, being restricted in the initial stages to an examination of the essential variables.

Price and price index statistics

The work of Eurostat would proceed in two directions, on the one hand pursuing the study of comparisons of price levels in the different Community countries (calculations of purchasing parities and of national accounts in real values), and on the other coordinating the price surveys and calculations of price indices for agricultural and industrial products, energy, external trade and consumer goods.

Second statistical programme

The Conference discussed with the various Commission Directorate-Generals in attendance the main directions and major projects covered by the draft second statistical programme. Following adoption by the Commission at the beginning of 1976, the second statistical programme would be submitted to the Council.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS PROGRAMME

Statistical requirements

The Commission needs employment statistics for a great many purposes. They are required not only for the social action programme, but also for the other Community policies - economic, regional, industrial, agricultural, educational, environmental, and so on - which have a bearing on employment problems. The present position and the outlook for employment, together with the sharp increase in unemployment in the Member States, also go to show that a suitable system of statistics urgently needs to be set up to study the different aspects of the labour markets from the point of view of both structure and trends.

In response to the Council's repeated calls for action, the Commission drew up a series of specific proposals aimed at setting up a system of surveys and studies.

Working with the Member States' statistics departments, the Commission conducted a survey of currently available statistics and considered what means were required to improve information in this field. Its proposed programme is based on the principle of coordinating the various sources of statistics, using some of them to identify and follow the development of employment structures, and others to follow market trends at frequent intervals.

The programme

A number of different types of surveys are to be conducted, some more frequently than others, and statistics compiled from them. The technical arrangements, and the different stages in which the programme is to be carried out, will be studied at each stage by experts in the Working Party on Employment Statistics. The main features of the programme are as follows :

1. General population censuses

From 1981 onwards these will be organized simultaneously in all the Member States, every ten years. Preparation for the uniform analysis of a common

part of the information to be collected from the next general censuses began in 1974. The results of a general census provide a useful pointer to the level and structure of employment at very long intervals.

2. Sample surveys

Since 1968 the Community has conducted regular sample surveys of manpower (the last one conducted in 1973 covered 600 000 households). These surveys provide highly detailed and comparable information on the employment situation and the development of employment structures. A survey of this kind is at present being conducted.

They are to be held every two years, and are intended in future to provide information on unemployment among young people and women and on "hidden" unemployment as well.

3. Harmonized statistics on wage and salary earners

It is vital that these are revised and expanded if a system of employment statistics is to be set up. Until 1972 harmonized statistics were only compiled for wage and salary earners in industry; under the new Programme they will have to be completely revised and all sectors of the economy will have to be covered, preferably once a year. For some key sectors, such as the building, automobile and textile industries, certain data will be obtained every six months.

4. Harmonized statistics on hours of work

These are compiled from half-yearly national surveys of industrial firms, which it is proposed to extend to non-industrial sectors employing large numbers of workers.

5. Analysis of the state of the labour markets

Statistics are only obtainable at present from labour exchanges. As methods of counting vacancies and persons registered as unemployed vary from one country to another, the figures supplied are not always comparable, and the Commission therefore proposes the adoption of a joint programme for the standardization of information, supplemented by flow analysis.

The collection of statistics by common methods can improve information on some special aspects, such as youth and graduate unemployment, unemployment among the elderly, and so on.

6. Uniform statistics on foreign workers

As work permits were abolished in 1969 there is no longer any common source of statistics on foreign workers. In 1971 the Commission submitted a proposal to the Council to establish harmonized statistics on foreign labour.

* * *

Apart from this Programm, it should also be noted that efforts to introduce standard definitions of employment phenomena are continuing. It is essential that these should be accepted nationally and internationally if the situations in different countries are to be meaningfully compared.

A special effort is also being made to ensure that Community nomenclatures, and particularly a standardized nomenclature of occupations, are adopted. Possible methods of adopting existing nomenclatures to the requirements of Community statistics are currently under consideration.

SOEC Seminar on Multipurpose Social Surveys and Subjective Questions

A seminar was held at Luxemburg under the auspices of the Statistical Office of the European Communities between the 25th and 28th November 1975, to provide for an exchange of views and experience in the field of multipurpose social surveys and subjective questions. The seminar was ably chaired by Professor Albert Coppé of the University of Louvain, a former Vice-President of the European Communities. Papers were presented by both official and non-official survey practitioners. Membership of the seminar was multi-disciplinary with statisticians, psychologists, economists as well as senior officials from each member country participating. The cross-fertilization which resulted from the multi-disciplinary nature of the seminar was a noteworthy feature which added much to the value of the seminar.

It is the intention of the Office that the papers presented at the Seminar should be collated, reduced somewhat in length where necessary, and published.

The seminar was designed so that the Office in connection with its work on social indicators might be kept abreast of developments in multipurpose surveys and in the field of so called "subjective survey" surveys, that is, surveys of peoples' perceptions, aspirations and satisfactions. Under the European Communities' Social Action Programme which was approved by the Council of Ministers towards the end of 1973, the Statistical Office is charged with improving and extending the system of social indicators and with investigating the possibilities of developing qualitative indicators (to reflect job satisfaction, satisfaction with housing, social services, the environment, use of leisure, etc.) by means of specific surveys or the co-ordination of national surveys.

Regular surveys of a subjective character are already carried out under the aegis of the Commission in each member country every quarter. In the economic field there is a survey of consumer opinions and consumer intentions on the basis of a sample across the Nine of some 40,000 households, and in the field of public satisfaction with the Community and with existing policies and proposed developments there is an inquiry on the basis of a rather smaller sample. There is thus a measure of experience within the Commission in carrying out subjective surveys and in interpretation of the results.

It emerged clearly from the papers and from the ensuing discussion that work, generally of an experimental nature, on subjective surveys in the social field was proceeding, and in some instances was well advanced, in a number of member countries. It was also clear that there was a need for co-ordination of nomenclatures of methodologies if the national work was to achieve maximum utility, particularly from an international viewpoint. It will be for the Statistical Office of the European Communities to formulate proposals to this end.

SEMINAR ON ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT STATISTICS

HELD AT BRUSSELS ON 11 DECEMBER 1975

The Commission organized this seminar as part of the **European Symposium on Trends in the Regulations concerning Motor-Vehicle Design** with the objective of establishing a dialogue between the principal groups of users of statistics on road traffic accidents.

Although the Symposium was orientated towards vehicle-related problems, the Seminar was intended to deal with the problem of road accidents in general,

The Seminar made a distinction between statistics providing basic information on the one hand and detailed investigations into specific problems on the other, and took the view that the primary task of the Statistical Office of the European Communities was that of providing coordinated basic information.

It stated that the aim was not to develop and impose a uniform Community-wide statistical system, but rather to coordinate national statistics in order to achieve higher comparability in the results. Although statistical systems based on police reports are not suitable for all purposes, they are the basis of national statistics and should therefore also be the basis of the Community statistical system.

Conclusions of the Seminar

- 1 The Statistical Office of the European Communities should pursue its work in this area and to this end should reconvene the working party on Road Traffic Accident Statistics. The composition of this working party would need to be studied in the light of user interests, and it would, when formed, have to distinguish between short-term and medium-term goals.
- 2 For the short term the working party should concentrate on variables which have already been worked on by the ECE in Geneva, namely the definition of kinds of victim, the classification of vehicles and the typology of accidents. It should draw up a series of precise definitions to be used within the Communities.
- 3 For the medium term the working party should try to formulate further statistical standards which might exceed Member States' present capabilities

but could be used as guidelines when changes were envisaged in national statistics. These standards could cover not only the factors required to describe the accident but also the methods to be used for the collection and processing of data on road traffic accidents. Changes to any statistical system are burdensome, but since it is in fact necessary to make such changes from time to time, such guidelines should be laid down as soon as possible.

- 4 The Statistical Office should also try to improve the comparability at international level between data relating to similar regions, such as mountainous regions, in different countries.
- 5 As to the detailed investigations into certain specific problems, it was agreed that the initiative should remain with the groups responsible for research in specific areas, who already cooperate internationally, for example within the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It is possible that the Commission could, as in other fields, help here too in the dissemination of the results of such research, in order to make economies or optimum use of resources by the pooling of experience.

FRITZ GROTIUS LEAVES EUROSTAT

Having reached the retiring age, Mr Fritz Grotius retired after twenty-three years of work for the European Communities.

Mr Grotius, a doctor in economics, was originally on the scientific staff at the University of Kiel. He then moved to the Stahltreuhändervereinigung in Düsseldorf, where he remained until 14 November 1952, when he entered the service of the ECSC High Authority. From the beginning he dealt with iron and steel industry and ore mining statistics, and following the creation of the Common Market in 1957 he was responsible for the organization of Community industrial statistics.

He was appointed Director of Industry and Small Business Statistics in 1961, and in 1973 also took on responsibility for Energy Statistics. Of the projects on which Mr Grotius and his Directorate expended a considerable amount of energy, mention may be made of the organization of steel industry statistics, the application of the Council Directives on industrial statistics and the finalization of base nomenclatures such as NACE (sectors and branches) and NIPRO (products), which are indispensable to the establishment of harmonized industrial statistics.

PART 2

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