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The data show the evolution during the period 1973 to 1982 for the Community as a whole, the 10 member countries and, in order to enable comparisons, for Spain, Portugal, Sweden, the United States and Japan. The most important features are shown in graph form.

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NEWS ITEMS

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NEWS ITEMS

150th anniversary of the United Kingdom Royal Statistical Society

The Director General of Eurostat, together with other colleagues, was present at the Conference held in London, on the 4—6 April 1984, to mark the 150th anniversary of the Royal Statistical Society.

During the reception held at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, on 5 April, Mr and Mrs de Geus were presented to Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth II, who is Patron of the Society.

A paper on Official Statistics was read to the Conference by Sir John Boreham, Director of the Central Statistical Office and Head of the United Kingdom Government Statistical Service. In the ensuing discussion Mr de Geus made the following contribution:

'It is good for heads of statistical offices on a historic occasion such as this to step back for a moment from pressing day-to-day problems to consider the varied roles official statistics have played and will play in a changing society.

To be brief I will not attempt to develop any of the extremely interesting themes touched upon in Sir John's paper but concentrate on the aspect that concerns me most in my role as Director General of the Statistical Office of the European Communities. That aspect is the connection between official national statistics and official Community statistics.

I read with considerable interest the 1973[1] paper to which Sir John refers, a paper which looked ahead at the probable consequences for the United Kingdom Government Statistical Service of Britain's joining the European Community in that year.

[1] Moser, C. A. and Beesley, I. B., 'Official statistics and the European Communities', J. Roy Stat Soc A, 136, 539, 1973.

What has indeed happened since then? Thanks to a considerable and sustained effort on the part of British statisticians, the integration of United Kingdom official statistics into the European Community system has been carried out successfully. The Community statistical system, which is still historically at an early stage of development, is enjoying a growing reputation in international circles. This is due to the benefits of the full and very close cooperation we get from all the Member States; due also to the skill and experience which the national statisticians have built up for Community purposes — and I am pleased to be able publicly to acknowledge the high value of the British contribution.

What will happen in future? I believe that two interlinked factors will have a strong influence on official national statistics in the coming decade.

Sir John has drawn attention to developments in information technology in this new information age in which we are living. In the international field, the European Community is already making available, on-line, the contents of its statistical data bases in North America as well as in Europe and more links with national and international networks are being forged; Japan will be added to the list next month.

As the figures themselves reach the user by automatic transmission so, as Sir John foresees, it can be expected that the statistician will in future have more time for textual explanation and interpretation.

But the other factor strongly influencing official statistics, as these growing networks bring the four corners of the earth much closer together, will be the growing use, for national as well as other purposes, of national statistics in a Community or wider international context.

It will then be so much more important for national statistical services to use common Community and international statistical standards in their everyday work. My own office is heavily engaged in a world-wide effort, led by the United Nations Statistical Office, to bring the various classifications systems closer together and to built the necessary bridges between them.

So — for the decade to come — the watchword for European statistics will be 'harmonization', very much as it has been in the past. In this respect we are looking forward confidently to a continued close cooperation with all our British colleagues.'

Recent trends in Community agriculture

This note sets out to describe the trends in Community agriculture between '1974',[1] following the entry into the Community of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom and '1981', following the arrival of the tenth Member State, Greece.

Aggregation into a common unit (grain-equivalent)[2] of the quantitative data obtained from the supply balance sheets enables comparisons to be made between crop production and animal production. For this purpose use is made of the Cronos-Eurostat data bank (Agricultural products domain), which contains all the national data transmitted by the Member States for the Commission's statistical work. For logical reasons the following two sectors have been excluded from the analysis:

(i) non-marketable fodder production (fodder root crops and annual and perennial fodder), since these are used exclusively on a self-supply basis for animal production;

(ii) 'industrial' products (tobacco, hops, flower and nursery stocks), for which supply balance sheets are not compiled and which correspond to less than 2 % of the Community's total final agricultural production for 1981.

The tables[3] give the results of the study in full; only the main features will be described in the conclusions.

Crop production

With the arrival of Greece the area under cultivation in the Community went up from

[1] '1974' = arithmetic mean of 1972/73 (1973), 1973/74 (1974) and 1974/75 (1975).

[2] Eurostat — Agricultural Statistical Studies No 22 — 1980.

[3] Eurostat — Crop Production No 1 1984.

36.1 million ha to 39.2 million ha, an increase of 8.5 %. In the same period, however, total crop production increased by approximately 19.0 %. This gives a gain in productivity averaging more than 1 % per year.

The increase in productivity per ha was approximately 9.4 % for cereal crops, 9.0 % for 'industrial' crops (primarily potatoes and sugarbeet), and only 4.0 % for fruit production (excluding olives).

Table 1: Marketable crop products: total production and productivity

Product	Total production (1000 UA)		Cultivated area (1000 ha)		Productivity (kg. UA/ha)		
	'1974'	'1981'	'1974'	'1981'	'1974'	'1981'	'1981/1974' (%)
Cereals	104 740	121 620	26 590	28 230	3 940	4 310	+ 9·4
Fruit + Citrus fruit + Vineyards	19 700	21 370	4 110	4 290	4 790	4 980	+ 4·0
Other (1)	30 320	40 560	5 430	6 670	5 580	6 080	+ 9·0
Total	154 760	183 550	36 130	39 190	4 280	4 680	+ 9·3

(1) Rice + pulses + potatoes + sugar beet + oleaginous seeds and fruit (inc. olives).

At the start of the '1980' cereal crops remain the cheapest to grow in terms of production costs. They occupy 72 % of the land under cultivation and give a yield of 43 quintals per ha, as against 50 quintals for fruit crops and just under 61 quintals for 'industrial' crops (yields measured in grain-equivalents).

Disregarding non-marketable fodder production, the Community significantly improved its rate of self-sufficiency in marketable crop products, from 80 % in '1974' to 87 % in '1981'. Leaving aside all considerations other than human consumption requirements and industrial uses, the Community went from a self-sufficiency deficit of 2.9 million tonnes in '1974' to a surplus of 11.6 million tonnes in '1981' (measured in grain-equivalents).

Table 2: Supply

Item	Marketable crop products		Animal products	
	'1974'	'1981'	'1974'	'1981'
Total production (1000 UA)	154 760	183 550	205 990	246 590
Total domestic use (1000 UA)	192 140	210 990	211 300	236 760
Supply	– 37 380 ■ 80	– 27 440 ■ 87	– 5 310 ■ 97	+ 9 830 ■ 104
Final production (1000 UA)	91 550	114 130	204 390	244 580
Food and industry (1000 UA)	94 480	102 570	209 130	234 050
Balance (1000 UA)	– 2 930	+ 11 560	– 4 740	+ 10 530

Animal production

Total animal production increased by just under 20 % in volume, from 206 million tonnes in '1974' to 247 million tonnes in '1981' (measured in grain-equivalents).

Although the size of the livestock population producing meat and milk naturally increased during the period in question, a calculation of the ratio between the production obtained and the average livestock population responsible for that production reveals an increase of 10.7 % in productivity.

There seems to have been significant increases in productivity for most types of production: 13 % for beef and milk, 10 % for pigmeat, 5 % for poultry and eggs, and no notable change for sheep and goats. However, in the 'extensive' production sector Sheep + Goats the importance of Greece in '1981' probably conceals a slight increase in productivity in the three Member States most involved in this sector, namely the United Kingdom, France and Ireland.

Table 3: Animal products: Total production and productivity

Product	Total production (1000 UA)		Livestock population([1]) (1000 LU)		Productivity (kg. UA/LU)		
	'1974'	'1981'	'1974'	'1981'	'1974'	'1981'	'1981/1974' (%)
Cattle (milk ([2]) + meat)	118 750	139 110	59 590	61 550	1 993	2 260	+ 13·4
Pigs	39 730	48 970	17 330	19 330	2 293	2 533	+ 10·5
Sheep and goats (meat)	4 020	5 670	4 490	6 330	895	896	–
Poultry (eggs and meat)	30 750	37 700	9 410	10 990	3 267	3 430	+ 5·0
Other ([3])	12 740	15 140	—	—	—	—	—
Total	205 990	246 590	90 820	98 200	2 268	2 511	+ 10·7

— Insignificant.
([1]) Livestock units (LU), *Source:* Cronos-Eurostat.
([2]) Including marketed sheep's milk and goat's milk.
([3]) Horsemeat, offal and other meat.

Measured in grain-equivalents fixed at the start of the 1970s, the league table of animal production remained unaltered during the period in question, the highest productivity being achieved, as could only be expected, for livestock not reared on open land.

The Community's rate of self-sufficiency in animal production went up from 97 % in '1974' to 104 % in '1981', i.e. from a deficit of 5.3 million tonnes to a surplus of 9.8 million tonnes (measured in grain-equivalents).

All products in Community agriculture

With the enlargement from nine Member States to ten, the Community's utilized agricultural area rose from 95 million ha in '1974' to 102 million ha in '1981'. At the same time the human population increased from 257 million to 271 million.

Table 4: All products of Community agriculture

Heading	'1974'		'1981'		'1981/1974' (in %)
Utilized agricultural area (1000 ha)	94 550		102 100		+ 6·9
Population (1000 inhabitants)	257 340		270 870		+ 5·3
Final production (1000 UA)					
Crop products	91 550 ■	31	114 130 ■	32	+ 24·7
Animal products	204 390 ■	69	244 580 ■	68	+ 19·7
Total	295 940 ■	100	358 710 ■	100	+ 21·2
Kg/UA/ha n.a.a.	3 130		3 510		+ 12·1
Human consumption (1000 UA)					
Crop products	78 380 ■	27·5	84 210 ■	26·7	+ 7·4
Animal products	209 910 ■	72·5	232 760 ■	73·3	+ 10·9
Total	288 290 ■	100·0	316 970 ■	100·0	+ 9·9
Kg/UA/per capita	1 120		1 170		+ 4·5

Final agricultural production rose from 296 million tonnes in '1974' to 359 million tonnes in '1981'. This represents an overall increase of 21.2 %, the increase for marketable crop production being slightly higher than that for final production of animal products (24.7 % as against 19.7 %). The respective shares of these two types of production remain stable in the final agricultural production figures for '1981' (approximately 68 % for animal products and 32 % for crop products).

Final production of Community agriculture increased from an average yield of 31.3 quintals per ha of utilized agricultural area to 35.1 quintals, measured in grain-equivalents. This represents an increase of approximately 12 % during the period in question.

Finally, per capita human consumption rose by 4.5 %, with a very modest increase in the proportion of animal products in our diet (73.3 % in '1982' as against 72.5 % in '1974'), measured in grain-equivalents.

R. Linguenheld

Data Banks — transfer of data — legal and economic aspects

The basic raw material for any data bank, even an economic one, is information. To give a general definition of information is liable to be a gamble or at the very least of a usefulness that is hard to discern. However, it must be acknowledged that all information is a commodity exchanged on a market. It is a public commodity in the sense that it is available to the public through both publications on hard copy and on-line publications (data banks, magnetic tapes, Videotex). It is also a public commodity to the extent that in most cases it has been collected on the basis of government legislation creating the obligation to provide the data. It is subsequently checked, processed and presented, generally through public services.

Businessmen, and more generally speaking the producers of basic information, feel that, as they are the source of the data, they ought to be able to obtain them free of charge because they have answered questionnaires.

Both government departments and businessmen or their representatives (Chamber of Commerce etc.) consider it quite normal for the information contained in data banks to be disseminated as widely as possible. However, the reasons behind such a wish are sometimes rather contradictory:

(i) if businessmen provide information which in many cases they would have liked to keep to themselves, it is probably because they are obliged to, but above all, because they expect a lot in return; they do in fact want to produce a profit on the initial investment and to be able to obtain the maximum amount of information enabling them to take the best possible decision within a company in the light of their knowledge of the environment and the market;

(ii) the reasons why government departments want their data to be widely disseminated are generally to avoid the duplication, research and waste of time associated with fragmentary sources which are all too often not comparable;

(iii) in more general terms, wide dissemination of data on-line will lead to a considerable saving for all concerned in terms of manpower, to the extent that the information is stored elsewhere and is stored permanently. For all these reasons, it seems obvious that the wider the dissemination, the more profits can be expected for companies.

To expect profits from dissemination seems quite normal in Europe but paying for information does not yet seem to have been accepted by European mentalities.

It is, therefore, particularly important to stress that in order to be really useful and usable the information must be subjected to a number of processing operations aimed at harmonizing it or validating it against standards (nomenclatures and concepts), correcting it and storing it. These various operations are likely to give this information a substantial added value, achieved at considerable cost in some cases.

Lastly, in order to use the information it is necessary to have retrieval facilities to locate it and computation facilities to put it in a more elaborate or more directly understandable form. It is, therefore, necessary in fact to have full documentation and facilities for analysing this documentation rapidly (retrieval system, mathematical or statistical computation software, etc.), facilities which require substantial investment in terms of manpower.

Bearing in mind that the manpower investment in the field of data processing is becoming more and more costly as a result of the ever increasing demand and that consequently specialized firms have to be called in to do what one cannot do oneself, it can be seen that on the information market there is rocm for several types of intermediaries between the data producer and the user:

(i) *the producer* of data banks, i. e. the one who is going to use the basic data to construct a data bank or at the very least format the data so that they can be stored in a data bank;

(ii) *the host,* i. e. the one who will construct a data bank with all the necessary software and will serve the users on-line.

In Europe, the commercial aspects of the information industry are not yet fully understood. The example of North America certainly provides food for throught; we must consider the reasons why the information industry has become so important and why the biggest hosts are North American. Information has for a long time been regarded as a commodity like any other, requiring the same type of treatment as other commodities or, to be more precise, needing to be treated as a spezialized product on a specific market:

(i) first of all, it had to be ensured that the use of computers etc. was regarded as routine and quite normal;

(ii) secondly, the product had to be 'promoted' among the 'paying' customers, i. e. those likely to agree that information retrieval would cost them a lot and that a cost/benefit analysis could be carried out between an internal and an external solution;

(iii) thirdly, it was necessary to produce efficient software which was easy to use and came at an attractive price;

(iv) lastly, an after-sales service had to be provided, i. e. to ensure that every customer and every user could find at all times not only the technical assistance (data processing) but also and above all the economic and commercial assistance which would enable him to make the best possible use of the information and get the best return from it. It was in fact a question of having information that was not only accurate and fully up-to-date but also of a sufficient standard to provide a pertinent answer to anything the customer wanted to know. In the American host companies, most of the staff is engaged on these aspects, providing an irreplaceable knowledge and know-how.

It is up to the non-American hosts to try to follow suit; the European Community has grasped the importance of the information industry and is therefore implementing three-year programmes to help to create and develop this market and to give a boost to European and world-level intermediaries.

Development of this kind is bound to cause a few ripples, since in Europe there are very few regulations on the ownership, transmission and copyright of data. Although there are one or two non-competition and reciprocity agreements between international organizations, most of the time these are informal and no sanction is applied.

Eurostat's experience — international recommendations

As far as flows of data between countries are concerned, Eurostat obviously has considerable experience. First of all, it plays an important part as a producer of data banks. This role is designed in a wholly original way, based on objectives laid down by the Commission of the European Communities. These objectives are threefold: to harmonize, collect and disseminate data. It is therefore a matter of constructing a coherent system of macroeconomic data entirely in keeping with well-defined nomenclatures and concepts and then of disseminating these data as widely as possible.

The Commission's role was therefore to foster the creation of a European network by making it easier for the posts and telecommunications authorities to get together, leading to the birth of Euronet and European standards; it then had to further the development of this network, from both a technical and a commercial or promotional point of view. The Commission then devised a three-year programme (1981—83) for the development of the information industry, in which it sets out its policy on the creation of an information market: efforts aimed at both producers and users of data to give a boost to world-level intermediaries.

More specifically — and this was its second role — Eurostat had to fall in line with the Commission's general policy on the creation of an information market. It therefore chose to disseminate its data banks (Comext and Cronos) via Euronet, using the services of private host companies. Such a choice is bound to pose considerable problems, which as the law stands at present are not resolved and are far from being so:

(i) Eurostat wants to ensure that the conditions for access to its data banks are identical throughout Europe: in other words, it charges fees for the use of the domains it has set up; this fee is the price of the service offered by the host (retrieval system, computation software, word processing, graph); the number and quality of the data held by all the hosts are the same. The conditions for loading the data are also laid down. It is immediately apparent that the strict maintenance of equal competition among hosts is particularly difficult in that account has to be taken of the size, structures, language and environment of the host and of both Commission and national policies.

(ii) Eurostat wants to keep track of its 'products', i. e. it intends to take part in promotional events and all meetings of users; regular contacts are maintained with the hosts in order to provide solutions to the problems; here again, considerable difficulties arise with regard to competition.

(iii) Eurostat imposes on the hosts invoicing conditions which make it possible to take account of the preferential users exempted from paying the Community fee. This practice is quite common but is not yet subject to rules defining a preferential user.

(iv) Eurostat is itself on Euronet to serve its external offices and certain private users. This practice can be regarded as competition to the commercial sector.

(v) Eurostat redisseminates national or international data, although no rules have been laid down at present.

The SOEC is fully aware that there are still some difficulties; agreements between international statistical offices specify the conditions governing exchanges between these offices; however, no rules are laid down with regard to ownership and redissemination. A working party has been set up under the chairmanship of the SOEC to act as a clearing-house among the national statistical institutes for the exchange of information on data banks and also as a laboratory which is going to try to draw up a code of good conduct as regards dissemination policy.

F. De Geuser

Transfer of technology to developing countries in the field of statistical data banks

Statistical data banks and developing countries

The developing countries' statistics suffer from many weaknesses, some of them visible or known and others not so apparent. The former include the lack of topicality, limited reliability, the incomplete nature or oldness of certain surveys used as the basis for indices, accounts, etc. The most important of the latter is without any doubt the difficulty of processing the data collected facing almost every statistical service in developing countries.

At the meeting of a working party of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa held in Addis Ababa in October 1981 and devoted to the operational and organizational problems encountered by the statistical services in African countries, this problem was acknowledged to be a fundamental one. Many surveys or regular collections of data do not come to anything on account of insuperable difficulties in processing: shortage or overloading of hardware, inadequate preparation of staff to tackle these questions of processing, lack of resources, etc.

This concept of processing must be considered carefully and not be reduced to the mere mechanics of automatic data processing. This term should be regarded as covering data acquisition, computerized production and, above all, dissemination.

Being constantly involved in acquisition and production, the statisticians in many developing countries no longer have either the time or the means to concern themselves with facilitating the use of their data.

The setting up of data bases represents an indisputable step forward in most cases, since it primarily involves the standardization of acquisition, processing and output procedures. This leads to considerable savings in the use of statisticians' time, greater reliability of the statistics produced and the introduction of a tool for facilitating the use of the data.

All the developing countries are highly dependent on the developed economies. Anything which illustrates or explains the mechanisms of the latter is therefore of interest to them. In order to clarify this, let us take several examples. Not only the volume but also the value of exports of certain raw materials whose first destination is a processing industry depend on the fluctuations in these industries. There is no shortage of examples: metals such as copper and iron or products such as wood or cotton. The cyclical or speculative fluctuations in the price of certain raw materials or the changing situation and economic forecasts of the purchasers of developing countries' products, i. e. the wealthy countries, are of vital importance for shaky economies depending on the conditions and changes in external markets, even if the latter take place only over very short periods.

This applies, for example, to exporters of certain seasonal agricultural products. Moreover, not all the exports of developing countries do benefit from a Stabex-type mechanism.

All these phenomena are reflected in statistical data and forecasting models. Although the information is not all gospel, there is a considerable difference between not being able to use anything and having the possibility of using something. In many cases, all this information is accessible in large data banks which can already be consulted in Europe or the USA. The developing countries are therefore likewise very interested in having access to sets of data of this kind.

Now that the scene has been set, so to speak, we must consider whether or not these objectives are realistic and can be attained.

Setting up of statistical data banks

As soon as statistical data bases are mentioned, a connection is almost automatically established with remote processing, consultation and on-line management. After that, we generally see large-scale projects requiring large-scale hardware and also, in the case of statistics, made-to-measure software. It goes without saying that this approach is often problematic in a developing country.

Telecommunications are in many cases in an unsatisfactory state. This is due, for example, in Africa to both technical (climate, distances, etc.) and organizational difficulties (weakness of the administrative system, inadequate training of staff, etc.). Although considerable progress has been made in some countries, in particular through the construction of ultramodern exchanges and new networks, this progress is usually confined to the capital cities. Communications within the country are still inadequate for developments of the on-line type.

Does the physical installation of reliable and dense networks similar to those in developing countries and of networks of the Euronet type of other types even have priority, bearing in mind the distances to be covered, the density or the populations, the concentration of the management of enterprises in the modern economic sector in the capital cities, and the costs involved?

Although it is essential to improve telecommunications, the strategy must be orientated towards an original approach, i.e. giving considerable scope for new techniques and adapting to the conditions obtaining. This approach is illustrated by the efforts known as the Panaftel project (Pan African Telecommunications Network), which combines cables, satellite transmission and radio links.

1983, World Communications Year, should bring about an advance in this field. It is not a question of tailoring our developed countries' structures to the developing countries, but what must and will be done will be to bring in a whole range of different resources which together will lead to progress. This difference, this diversity, has and will have technical implications for the standards and possible conditions for remote processing.

When we think of large data bases, we also think of large computers. The maintenance of such hardware is a tricky and demanding task. In view of the resources available in the African countries — to continue taking our examples from this continent — the computer manufacturers do not have very large subsidiaries there and the market is very small. There are not enough technicians and spare parts. Maintenance and repairs sometimes take a very long time. Moreover, the operating conditions of these large computers also give rise to difficulties in two respects:

(i) The administrative organization around a large computer centre serving many users is often unwieldy, complex and obstructive in 'advanced' countries. How could it be otherwise in a developing country? In such a situation, the priority accorded to statistics is frequently a myth. There is virtually no statistical service in Africa which does not have cause for complaint when it uses its country's central data processing service.

(ii) The technical conditions are likewise an important constraint: air-conditioning, stability of the electricity supply, etc.

Different solutions must therefore be envisaged. Over the last couple of years the potential of micro-informatics has increased considerably. It must not be ignored, especially as tomorrow it will be there for all to see. We can envisage fully operational configurations at highly competitive prices. With the new generation of micro-computers using 16-bit technology, it is possible to have for 25 000 ECU, a micro-computer with a storage capacity of around 500 K, two video consoles, a hard disk unit (Winchester) and a very large-capacity cassette reader unit. For this price, a statistical service can be equipped with several models of the same configuration for reasons of security and easy maintenance.

When confronted with the above remarks, statisticians or data-processing specialists in large developed countries will perhaps reply that a serious survey or analysis cannot be considered with this type of equipment for the volumes processed. This argument is easily countered; in Africa, with the exception of Nigeria (80 million inhabitants) which is, it should be remembered, a federal state where each constituent state has its own statistical service, Zaire to a lesser extent and one or two other countries, the African countries are small (under 10 million inhabitants). Compared with large countries such as France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom, not to mention the USA, an average statistical population in an African country for an internationally comparable survey or collection is in the proportion of 1 to 20.

Experiments are already being described in papers showing the possibility of carrying out 'unthinkable' work on small-scale equipment (Compstat 82). That leaves the products made for statistical purposes. It must be acknowledged that here the obstacle is a considerable one. In view of recent developments, the software companies can hardly be expected to take a very philanthropic attitude. Moreover, a micro-informatics orientation inevitably involves difficulties for the standardization of rules, operating systems, etc. However, a lot has already been achieved and encouraging initiatives have been taken.

As far as the achievements are concerned, it is not all that long ago that the developed countries' statistics were using hardware of a similar capacity to that of some present or future microcomputers. There is therefore a certain amount of software which would only have to be converted, probably by switching it to a direct-access system. Certain cooperation agencies in the European Community countries are already working along these lines or are giving priority to the development of statistical data processing software for microcomputers.

A real breakthrough can therefore be made for the development of data bases in developing countries, although it must be accepted that this approach should be adapted to these countries and that its extreme complexity in other countries should be modified somewhat. Nevertheless, technological developments are making it possible to store, process and consult easily the statistics collected in a developing country. This must be accompanied by a considerable effort for the training of both statisticians and all kinds of users. It is a difficult and costly operation since, quite apart from the nature of the training to be given, there are obstacles to be overcome and habits to be changed, making it no slight matter.

In the long run, the developments may give rise to changes up to the level of collection in the field by, for example, giving enumerators calculators that can be programmed as questionnaires. Acquisition and checking could be made easier. Here again, the major obstacle is probably training and habits.

To conclude, as far as statistical data bases are concerned, the transfer of technology and know-how must be effected with imagination and a concern for innovation.

Access to statistical data bases existing outside developing countries

We shall not go back over the problems of telecommunications mentioned above. Even if they are limited, there are facilities for access from the major economic centres in developing countries. And it is there that the need exists, if only because the telex network exists.

The problem is in fact quite different. The large companies operating as data bank hosts are not charitable organizations. The market in a country such as Somalia, Chad or Mauritius is not the foremost of their concerns, especially as even the potential customers of these countries are not very rich. Other solutions must be sought.

The developing countries need a 'non-profit-making broker'. As things stand at present, this rather rare species can be found only within aid organizations (EDF, bilateral cooperation agencies or regional organizations of developing countries). However, it must be realized that if this avenue is to be explored, it constitutes a heavy burden in both financial and human terms for the 'non-profit-making broker'.

Conclusion

Considering the potential developments in the two directions mentioned above with regard to statistical data bases and developing countries, it can be seen that they in fact involve two-way exchanges between developing and developed countries.

There is a transfer of technology: know-how, hardware, access to existing data bases, support for the improvement of telecommunications, etc.

The cooperation is not solely non-profit-making, since there is a commercial aspect on both sides. Statistics constitute a prime tool for technological penetration to other economic sectors. The experts coming from statistical services to other sectors will without doubt give preference to the hardware and tools to which they are accustomed.

Lastly, since it is out of the question to simply transfer the solutions adopted in developed countries, it is likely that future developments, (new software, the organizational work necessary if the developing countries are to have data bases, and better conditions for the use and collection of data) will also be very useful for the developed countries, since they will be innovations compared with the methods used in these countries.

D. Byk

Steel consumption by user branch

As a basic industry, the steel industry is very much dependent on the sectors of activity which consume steel in order to manufacture more advanced final products.

Steel consumption therefore is to a large extent directly determined by an economic factor, the level of activity of steel user industries and their growth rate, and by a technical factor, specific steel consumption,[1] which may be influenced by the replacement of steel by other materials, production of lighter-weight products, new production techniques, etc.

History of steel consumption studies

The Commission is obliged under the ECSC Treaty to carry out a permanent study of steel market trends, periodically drawing up short-term tentative forward programmes as well as the long-term 'General Steel Objectives', and it was aware at a very early stage of the need to study steel consumption.

In 1968, at the insistence of DG III and the Eurostat, profile studies were started in order to obtain more facts about steel consumption in specific major sectors such as the building and mechanical engineering industries. This initial stage, which may be considered an exploratory phase in which the various possibilities open to this type of research were assessed, led to an initial five-year programme in 1973. This programme, which was prepared and periodically updated by a working party of representatives of the Commission departments concerned, governments, steel producers and specialized research institutes, consisted in launching each year simultaneously in all Member States an economic and technical profile study dealing with one or more steel consumer sectors, so that practically all sectors were covered within the five year period. In 1978, the programme was completely revised and, as a result, the profile studies discontinued (coordination was difficult because of lack of consistency and uniformity) to be replaced by synthetical tables which simultaneously presented the consumption of all steel users. This is the system currently in operation and in its second three-year programme (1983, 1984, 1985).

The current system

The current system, which is organized and financed by the Commission (Eurostat — DG III) and implemented in each Member State by private research institutes, therefore presents in the form of harmonized tables the production of the steel consuming industries and their steel consumption broken down by types of steel products.

The products: the most representative steel products were selected at the time of the profile studies. They are divided into:

(i) 'ECSC' steel products (these products being subject to the provisions and obligations of the Treaty of Paris; for example, these are the products which have been subject to the production quota system since 1980). In these studies they consist of 10 products: long products (e.g. merchant steel, rod) flat products (sheet and plate) and various types of sections;

[1] Specific steel consumption may be defined as the weight of steel consumed in order to obtain a unit of a given product, expressed in terms of weight, value or number of products units.

(ii) 'non-ECSC' products (7) because although they are steel products, they are not subject to the provisions of the Treaty. These products are the result of the first processing stage and are highly relevant to these studies because they represent the first marketing outlet for steel. They basically consist of tube, drawn wire and forged products etc.

The branches: for the definition of the consumer industries, the notion of 'branch' as used in national accounts has replaced that of 'sector' as used for the profile studies. In other words, the concept of 'branch' obtained by grouping uniform production units has been preferred to that of sectors generally made up of institutional units with a main common activity. The notion of branch improves the relationship between steel consumption and production of a given branch, and as a result allows the specific steel consumption to be calculated more precisely. These branches, which number 14, are defined as follows in accordance with NACE:

(i) primary processing of steel: forging, drawing, cold rolling and folding, tube manufacture, steel casting, pressing and shearing
(ii) construction of non-electrical machines
(iii) electrical and electronic construction
(iv) shipbuilding
(v) construction of railway equipment, automobiles and other vehicles
(vi) metal construction
(vii) building and public works
(viii) metal working (metal furniture, bolt and nuts, ironmongery)
(ix) metal packaging
(x) boilers and other containers

and a residual branch: 'other steel consuming industries'.

Consumption: steel products are intermediate goods which are likely to be consumed in that state (e.g. rails), but will in most cases undergo primary processing (e.g. tubes) or even a whole series of processes before being consumed as final goods.

The studies must take account of this phenomenon of multi-stage processing and a distinction is made between three consumption phases:

Phase 1: Consumption by branches of ECSC products. This first stage may be considered the branch's direct consumption.

Phase 2: Consumption of non-ECSC products.

Phase 3: Indirect steel consumption: this last phase covers products of the subsequent processing industries (e.g. inter-branch exchanges). The total direct and indirect consumption indicates the overall importance of a branch as a steel user.

When the various elements making up the general table for all user branches are aggregated, it is important that there should be no double counting, since the quantitative consumption of a branch may already be included in that of another branch at an earlier stage.

In each phase, the absolute consumption and specific consumption of each product by each branch is registered, with a distinction made between ordinary steel and special steel (steel manufactured in order to obtain special characteristics, such as corrosion resistance, magnetic or electrical properties, elasticity etc.).

The specific consumption is obtained by calculating the ratio between the steel consumption of the branch and a representative yardstick for its production (quantities, values, indices).

Finally, for each stage of consumption, account is taken of stock variations.

The methods: Depending on the statistical systems of the Member States, the following two methods are applied:

(i) the 'input' method, which is largely based on the consumption or purchases of steel of the consumer branch (by direct, total survey or by sample survey). The method of coefficients (for calculating the weight of steel incorporated in the products of the processing industry) is a special variant of this method;

(ii) or the 'output' method, which by contrast is based on the statistics of supplies from the steel industry to the branches.

The results: Ten years of these studies have been completed and are at the Commission's disposal. Some work remains to be done, especially in specific consumption and in the breakdown of consumption between ordinary and special steel, because it is sometimes difficult to determine at the finished product stage the proportion of ordinary steel or special steel used.

Harmonized tables of consumption of ECSC steel and non-ECSC steel by branch are available for the Community and for each of the Member States.

These data for each Member State are confidential because they follow very closely the pattern of the steel trading networks. For the Community as a whole, Eurostat has started to publish in its '1983 Steel Yearbook' a table presenting 10 years of ECSC and non-ECSC steel consumption by branch in crude steel equivalent.

The experience acquired in nearly 20 years of studies made it possible to enter a new phase in 1983. On the basis of the accumulated data, it is now possible to compile input-output tables specifically for the steel industry.

These IOTs are expected to allow a more precise analysis of the interplay between steel production, intermediate flows and final steel demand. They are also the most suitable instrument for analysing consistencies between the trends of the steel industry and those of the national economy and for assessing the true level of this industry.

The input-output tables are therefore being compiled in most of the Member States by the specialized research institutes working in cooperation with the national statistical offices. Being expressed in values and quantities, they are suitable for integration in the input-output tables of the national accounts. A pilot study for the FR of Germany (for 1978) has already been carried out and the results for the other Member States will be available at the end of 1984.

The traditional 'steel consumption by branch' studies are being continued in parallel, but are subject to realignement to take account of the input-output table system.

M. Mateo

The statistical register of Community fishing vessels

In the description of Eurostat's programme of fishery statistics (Eurostat News No 1-1983), pages 3—5) mention was made of the development of a statistical register of Community fishing vessels. This register is now fully operational and is proving such as useful tool that it merits a fuller description.

The need for such a register became very apparent with the development of Community fisheries policies. The demand from fishery managers, scientists and administrators for statistics on the fishing fleet increased greatly and it became obvious that the normal presentation of these statistics in a limited number of standard tables could not satisfy the many and varied requests for data. Eurostat therefore started discussions in 1979 with the national authorities of EC Member States with a view to establishing a register of fishing vessels which would permit records of individual vessels to be processed as desired in response to requests for statistics.

After initial doubts concerning the object of the register and the confidentiallity of records on individual vessels had been overcome (see below) the Member States were generally very receptive to the proposal and have cooperated fully in the scheme. Most Member States had records of their fishing vessels but these national registers were found to be in varying states of development (from hand-written records in ledgers to highly sophisticated multi-purpose computer systems). The initial discussions were largely concentrated on determining the characteristics of the vessels which should be recorded on the register and an early decision was that, because the register was intended to supply statistics on the structure of the fleet (as opposed to monitoring the activities of the fleet), only structural characters would be included on the register. The final choice of characters to be included was a compromise between characters which were deemed to be useful and those generally recorded in the national registers.

Vessel characteristics recorded on the statistical register of Community fishing vessels.

1. **Identification**
   a. Country
   b. Registration number/ Statistical number
   c. Base port
   d. Vessel name (optional)
   e. Type of ownership
   f. Type of vessel

2. **Characteristics**
   a. Length overall
   b. Length between perpendiculars
   c. Registered length
   d. IMO load line length
   e. Gross registered tonnage
   f. Net registered tonnage
   g. Year of launching
   h. Year of commissioning
   i. Country where built
   j. Material of hull
   k. Type of propulsion
   l. Power of main engine
   m. Year of change of main engine

3. **Operating characteristics**
   a. Number of crew
   b. Principal gears carried

4. **Special Equipment**
   a. Navigational equipment
   b. Communications equipment
   c. Fish finding equipment
   d. Fish processing equipment
   e. Fish holding equipment
   f. Other equipment

As well as varying in presentation, the existing national registers varied with regard to the characters recorded, the definitions applied to these characters and the proportion of the total fleet covered. An agreement was reached with the national authorities whereby they submitted to Eurostat a computer tape, with a harmonized format and coding, of the national registers as they appeared at that time. Although this work was partly financed from Community funds, it is pleasing to record the ready cooperation given by the national authorities; in some cases they even went so far as to improve the coverage of the national registers beyond the bare requirements of the agreements.

It must be stressed that, at this stage, the overall coverage and the definitions applied to the individual characteristics varied from one country to another, but this was considered a relatively minor inconvenience (which in any case already existed in earlier national tabulations) compared with the advantages to be acquired from the flexibility of the data. Now that the register is firmly established attention is turning to the problems of uniformity of coverage and harmonization of definitions.

In spite of the fact that records of individual fishing vessels are often published in national almanacs there were initial fears in the Member States concerning the submission of individual records to Eurostat and the use to which they would be put. These fears were largely allayed by assurances from Eurostat that the register was only to be used for statistical purposes, that access to individual records was to be restricted to officials from the responsible Eurostat division and that statistical data extracted from the register would be checked by Eurostat before release to safeguard the confidentiality of records. In addition it was necessary in some cases to take account of national legislation on confidentiality of information. This has been achieved by the national authority submitting individual but unidentifiable records of the vessels (for example with the vessel name missing and the registration number replaced by a statistical number that is only significant to the national authority). A setback to the work which has yet to be fully assessed is the decision of the authorities of the FR of Germany to cease making the individual records available to Eurostat. Because of problems related to the confidentiality of data in that country, they have instead offered to supply Eurostat with standard tabular presentations of the fleet situation and to meet subsequent requests for information by themselves interrogating the national register. The full impact of this decision on the delay caused by relaying a request for information and on the workload of manually deriving the total Community situation has yet to be assessed.

The current situation with the register is that there are approximately 40 000 vessels on the file for each of three years. The Member States have agreed to submit up-dated registers (with the situation as of 31 December) once annually and many of them are actively working to improve and harmonize the coverage. A first test of the register was its use to derive the standard statistical tables that the national authorities were required to submit annually to Eurostat and other international agencies. As a result the national authorities are relieved of this obligation. These tables are extracted from the register and are sent by Eurostat to these other agencies (with copies to the Member States for their approbation).

Recently a software package (ICL's Package X) has been found to be a suitable tool for exploiting the register and it is allowing Eurostat to show its appreciation of the cooperation it is receiving from Member States by meeting national requests for information from the register as well as meeting its obligations to the Community institutions.

One example of the opportunities opened by the register which would not have been available (or at least only with extreme difficulty) without it is a current study of the relationship between two length measurements on the register. In Community legislation implementing the Common Fisheries Policy reference is often made to the 'length between perpendiculars' of a vessel. Many Member States have not recorded this on the register but have opted for the 'length overall'. We need not here go into the definitions of these two measures: it is sufficient to say that, at present, we have no clear idea as to the relationship between the two. Fortunately three Member States have submitted data on both measures for at least part of the fleet in their registers. Eurostat is now able to investigate the possibility of developing conversion factors to complete the entries for 'length between perpendiculars' in the register. This study involves looking to see if different relationships between these two measures exist for different sizes of vessels, for different types of vessels, for different nationalities of vessels, etc. Such a study would be at least very laborious without the computerized register.

Thus, while accepting that there are still improvements to be made, Eurostat is well pleased with its work on the development of the statistical register and wishes to record its appreciation of the cooperation received from Member States. As a result it is now able to offer a statistical service to both national and Community institutions that was impossible before.

D. G. Cross

National accounts ESA: The 1980 input-output tables

Foreword

The input-output tables are — probably quite wrongly — one of the least known aspects of the national accounts.

The reasons why interest in them is confined to such a restricted circle are that they are usually compiled for Eurostat at five-yearly intervals and, since they do not appear until at least four to five years after the reference period, they are of more use for simulation calculations (what will happen to *a* if I change *b* and everything else remains constant) than for the figures appearing in each box.

This paper is a resumé of the distribution policy for these rather special tables.

A spot of background information

Every five years Eurostat asks the Member States to submit an input-output table drawn

Input/output tables obtainable from Eurostat

Years / Countries	1959	1965	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975 (1)	1975 (2)	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Germany (FR)	Q	Q	Q				Q	Q	Q						
France	Q	Q	Q/A	A	A	A	A		Q/A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Italy	Q	Q	Q	A	A	A	A	Q	Q			Q			
Netherlands	Q	Q	Q		A	A		Q	Q	A	A	A			
Belgium	Q	Q	Q					Q	Q						
Luxembourg		Q	A												
United-Kingdom			Q	A	A			Q	Q				Q		
Denmark			Q				A	Q	Q						
Ireland			A						Q						
EC—6		Q	Q												
EC—9			Q						Q						
Spain								Q							

(1) Tables inclusive of deductible VAT.
(2) Tables net of deductible VAT.
Q — 'Five-early' tables (with flows disaggregated into internal origin, EC imports, imports from third countries).
A — 'Annual' tables (no disaggregation of flows).

up according to mutually agreed procedures which are an integral part of the ESA (European System of Integrated Economic Accounts). The tables are available for 1959, 1965, 1970 and 1975, and the 1980 tables should start appearing towards the end of 1984.

Input-output tables at less than five-yearly intervals are also available for those countries which draw up national versions and have agreed to submit them to Eurostat in the harmonized ESA format.

The input-output tables for 1975 were published for the individual countries in the form of booklets called 'internal documents', which appeared as and when the tables became available. The first country was Denmark in January 1981 and the last was Germany in March 1982.

The input-output tables for the Member States and for the Community as a whole came out as an official publication at the beginning of 1983. Alongside these general input-output tables, input-output tables for energy were compiled for the first time in 1975. These show the flows not only in value terms but also in physical quantities of energy. The new tables will be produced every five years; those for 1980 are nearly ready.

Characteristics of the 1980 input-output tables

The guidelines for compiling the 1980 input-output tables were designed to increase the volume of information available and at the same time ensure comparability with the 1975 input-output tables.

(i) Number of branches. This has been increased to 59 (which can be reduced by simple addition to the NACE/CLIO R44 classification) to bring the tables more closely into line with the energy input-output tables.

(ii) The tables for non-deductible VAT. These are now an integral part of the series of tables to be submitted to Eurostat for the purpose of simulation calculations using the input-output tables net of all VAT.

(iii) Conversion tables. Cross-classifications have been requested for capital formation (by producer branch and owner branch) and house-hold consumption (by branch and by purpose). These will be extremely useful for simulation exercises for years other than 1980.

Distribution of 1980 input-output tables in printed form

The 1980 input-output tables should be published more quickly than those for 1975, because they have been compiled using only one valuation system (producers' prices net of deductible VAT) whereas the 1975 tables were calculated at producers' prices *net* and *inclusive* of deductible VAT.

In order to speed up their distribution to users even further, it has been decided to discontinue the production of internal publications of input-output tables for the individual countries. Instead these tables will be sent in the form of computer print-outs to those users who ask for their names to be put on a special mailing list at:

Eurostat
Division B/1 — Economic Accounts
L-2920 Luxembourg-Kirchberg

The 1979 input-output table for the United Kingdom is already available.

Once all the Member States (with exception of Greece and Luxembourg) have submitted their input-output tables, Eurostat will bring them out as an official publication.

Distribution on magnetic tape

This will save the user the tedious job of punching the data on his own computer and will provide him with information which is not normally available in printed form, such as the disaggregation of flows of uses by branches according to origin (domestic EC countries, third countries; tables on non-deductible VAT, tables on inter-branch transfers, etc.).

Calculations available on request

For users who do not have computing power available, Eurostat has developed a set of programs to perform simulations on demand within reasonable limits subject of course to priorities and resources available. Requests for these should be sent to Division B/1, indicating as precisely as possible the calculations which are required.

Examples of these calculations are:

(i) quantification of economic activity (e.g. employment) induced directly or indirectly by a given final demand (e.g. certain investments);

(ii) calculation of the (direct and indirect) import content in each item of final demand (e.g. exports);

(iii) calculation of the increase in the prices of production and final uses resulting from a given increase in the price of imports (e.g. oil).

M. Pecci-Boriani

Parliamentary questions

Written Question No 2160/82
by Mr Rudolf Wedekind (PPE—D)
to the Commission of the
European Communities

(1 February 1983)

Subject: Harmonization of foreign trade statistics

What possibilities does the Commission see for greater harmonization of foreign trade statistics, particularly as regards key indicators and the product reference numbers used for statistical purposes?

Answer given by Mr Burke on behalf of the Commission

(27 April 1983)

The Commission has been working on the harmonization of external trade statistics for 20 years or more. Considerable results have been achieved, which have found expression in Council regulations, the main ones being:

Regulation (EEC) No 1445/72, introducing the nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (Nimexe) and setting up a committee to administer the nomenclature;[1]

Regulation (EEC) No 3065/75,[2] making Nimexe entirely binding upon the Member States; and

Regulation (EEC) No 1736/75,[3] establishing standard rules, binding on the Member States, for definitions, methods, compilation, nomenclature and publication of the results together with the relevant management committee.

Since their inception, the committees referred to have drawn up further rules on harmonization, which have become obligatory in all Member States in the form of regulations.

The elements and nomenclature headings for goods used in external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between

[1] OJ L 161, 17. 7. 1972, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 307, 27. 11. 1975, p. 1.
[3] OJ L 183, 14. 7. 1975, p. 3.

Member States, published by the Statistical Office of the European Communities, can therefore be considered as harmonized. It is only for certain special movements of goods such as ships and aircraft, mineral oils and products of their distillation and goods put up for sale in sets, that no statistical harmonization rules have yet been adopted, since these depend partly on the progress made on harmonization in other spheres (customs, taxation and so on).

The existence of the regulations referred to does not mean that the Member States may not adopt additional elements and nomenclature headings for their own foreign trade results outside the framework of Community statistics. Such elements and nomenclature headings have not of course been harmonized and, in many instances, it would be difficult to do so. The Commission hopes that its initiative aimed at strengthening the internal market will lead, at least as far as statistics on intra-Community trade are concerned, to the harmonization or elimination of these national elements and nomenclature headings referred to above. To this end it has presented to the Council a proposal for a regulation[1] laying down certain measures for the standardization and simplification of statistics of trade between Member States.

Written Question No 257/83
by Mrs Henriette Poirier (COM—F)
to the Commission of the
European Communities

(4 May 1983)

Subject: 1970 EEC/Spain trade Agreement

The EEC/Spain Agreement of 1970 enabled Spain to strengthen its protection against imports while at the same time increasing its outlets on the Community market.

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that this Agreement has been more advantageous to Spain than to the EEC?
2. Can the Commission give figures for trade between the EEC and Spain since 1970?
3. Will the Commission renegotiate this Agreement?

[1] OJ C 21, 26. 1. 1983, p. 4.

Answer given br Mr Natali on behalf of the Commission

(4 July 1983)

1 and 3. The 1970 EEC-Spain Agreement, which laid down measures for lowering trade barriers between the Community and Spain, has led to a mutual reduction in trade protection.

The Agreement, which was concluded 13 years ago for an initial period of six years, provided for bigger tariff cuts by the Community than those to be applied by Spain, given Spain's economic situation during the 1960s. Efforts were made during the 1970s to reach a free trade agreement modelled on those concluded with the EFTA countries. In 1979, however, after the opening of the accession negotiations with Spain, the Community and Spain each took note of the *'de facto* situation' and agreed that future trade relations would be dealt with in the context of the customs union. Since the accession negotiations are in progress it would be difficult, if not out of the question, to renegotiate the 1970 Agreement.

In order to deal with the present problems of tariff disparities between the Community and Spain and find a balanced solution as regards the customs union in the context of Spain's accession, the Commission has proposed to the Council an overall solution linking the tariff aspects for the pre- and post-accession periods and transitional measures.

2. The Honourable Member will find below a table giving the figures for trade between the Community and Spain since 1958.

EEC-Spain trade

Year	Imports		Exports		Trade balance (1)
	Million EUA	1970 = 100	Million EUA	1970 = 100	
1958	348	30	338	19	— 10
1960	517	45	332	18	— 185
1963	536	47	830	46	294
1966	690	60	1 554	86	864
1967	723	63	1 475	82	752
1968	789	69	1 392	77	603
1969	971	85	1 555	87	584
1970	1 144	100	1 795	100	651
1971	1 408	123	1 884	105	476
1972	1 723	151	2 411	134	688
1973	2 310	202	3 179	177	869
1974	2 953	258	4 355	243	1 402
1975	2 997	262	4 088	228	1 092
1976	3 975	347	4 814	268	840
1977	4 920	430	5 700	318	780
1978	5 558	486	5 279	294	— 279
1979	6 808	595	6 894	384	86
1980 (2)	8 220	718	7 963	444	257
1981 (3)	7 052	616	7 411	413	359

Source: Eurostat — Special Number 1958—1979 + microfiches for 1977 and 1975.
(1) — = Imports exceeded exports.
(2) SOEC Bulletin 3/81.
(3) SOEC Bulletin 4/81.

Written Question No 307/83
by Ms Joyce Quin (S—GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 May 1983)

Subject: Steel imports into the EEC from third countries

Will the Commission please supply figures for the volume of steel imports into the EEC from third countries during the period 1979 to 1982 inclusive, giving the figures both for imports into the EEC as a whole and into the individual EEC Member States?

Can the Commission also state what proportion of steel purchased in the EEC these imports represent?

Answer given by Mr Davignon on behalf of the Commission

(18 July 1983)

The information requested by the Honourable Member is given in the tables below.

Imports (third countries)

(1000 tonnes ingot equivalent)

	1979	1980	1981	1982
Federal Republic of Germany	4 749	4 139	3 793	4 492
France	908	1 058	839	1 393
Italy	2 476	3 016	1 386	1 628
Netherlands	562	467	344	632
BLEU	709	601	356	636
United Kingdom	1 604	1 733	866	1 352
Ireland	53	50	42	67
Denmark	492	534	477	636
Greece	—	—	257	383
EUR 9	11 553	11 598	8 103	10 836
EUR 10	—	—	8 360	11 219

Apparent consumption of ECSC products

(1000 tonnes ingot equivalent)

	1979	1980	1981	1982
Federal Republic of Germany	43 532	41 453	41 771	36 978
France	22 283	22 546	21 085	20 286
Italy	27 687	30 423	27 034	26 400
Netherlands	3 752	3 953	3 639	3 451
BLEU	5 434	5 112	4 950	4 707
United Kingdom	21 082	15 248	16 203	15 735
Ireland	557	360	459	396
Denmark	1 626	1 619	1 520	1 628
Greece	—	—	1 666	1 712
EUR-9	125 953	120 714	116 661	109 581
EUR-10	—	—	118 327	111 293

% imports/apparent consumption

	1979	1980	1981	1982
Federal Republic of Germany	10·91	9·98	9·08	12·14
France	4·07	4·69	3·97	6·86
Italy	8·94	9·91	5·12	6·16
Netherlands	14·97	11·81	9·45	18·31
BLEU	13·04	11·75	7·19	13·51
United Kingdom	7·60	11·36	5·34	8·59
Ireland	9·51	13·88	9·15	16·91
Denmark	30·25	32·98	31·38	39·06
Greece	—	—	15·42	22·37
EUR 9	9·17	9·60	6·94	9·86
EUR 10	—	—	7·06	10·08

Source: Eurostat.

Written Question No 281/83
by Mr Mark Clinton (PPE—IRL)
to the Commission of the
European Communities

(4 May 1983)

Subject: Community agricultural imports

1. What was the average rate of increase in Community imports of major agricultural products from 1970 to 1982?

2. What was the rate of increase in agricultural imports into the United States, Canada and Australia, during the same period?

3. What development has there been in the US share of Community imports of agricultural products since 1965?

4. What development has there been in the amount of money raised on levies on imported agricultural products to the Community from 1970 to 1982?

Answer given by Mr Burke on behalf of the Commission

(3 August 1983)

In view of the length of its answer, which includes a number of tables, the Commission is sending it direct to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat.

PUBLICATIONS

Published

Theme 1

EUROSTAT REVIEW 1973-1982

ISBN 92-825-4083-9 (EN/FR/NL), ISBN 92-825-4084-7 (DA/DE/IT)

Format A 4, 238 pages, price BFR 600

Time series of the principal statistical domains covered by Eurostat. The work is devided into six sections: 1. General statistics; 2. National accounts, finance and balance of payments; 3. Population and social conditions; 4. Industry and services; 5. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries; 6. Foreign trade.

The data cover the period 1972 to 1981 and relate to the EC Member States, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, the United States and Japan. Comparisons between two periods are often expressed in percentages or as an index number. The most important features are shown in graph form. **(1. 1. 1/84)**

STASTISTICAL PANORAMA OF EUROPE

(DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/IT/NL)

Format A 6, 31 pages, free of charge

Introducing graphical presentation of the statistics of the European Community, its Member States and the most important partners. Information on Eurostat, its publications and its on-line services.

(adaptation 1984)

ACP — BASIC STATISTICS — 1984

ISBN 92-825-4214-9 (EN/FR)

Format A 6, 176 pages, price BFR 400

Selection of the most important statistics of the ACP countries, signatories with the Community of the Lomé Convention, and comparison with other developing countries. This selection covers the following areas: population, national accounts, production of industry, mining and agriculture, foreign trade, prices, finance external aid, standard of living.

As from 1984 a new part will be introduced: Mediterranean countries, Africa, non-ACP. **(1. 3. 1/83)**

Theme 2

METHODOLOGY OF THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

ISBN 92-825-3537-1 (DE/EN/FR)

Format C 5, 327 pages, price BFR 750

This publication exposes the concepts, definitions and methods used for the compilation of the balance of payments of the Federal Republic of Germany. **(2. 6. 5/82)**

ACCOUNTS OF INSTITUTIONAL SECTORS: ANALYSIS OF CORPORATE ENTERPRISES HOUSEHOLDS AND CREDIT INSTITUTIONS IN MEMBER STATES 1970-82
Studies of national accounts — No 5

ISBN 92-825-4193-2 (EN), ISBN 92-825-4194-0 (FR)

Format A 4, 94 pages, price BFR 200

This publication shows the main features in the evolution of the accounts of corporate enterprises, households and banks in the Member States from 1970 to 1982: reduction in saving and investment of corporate enterprises; increase in their borrowing and interest payments. In annex many tables give the main statistics of sectors accounts, drawn up according to the European System of Integrated Economics Accounts (ESA). **(adaptation 1983)**

Theme 3

DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS 1982

ISBN 92-825-4294-7 (DA/DE/EN/FR/GR/IT/NL)

Format A 4, 205 pages, price BFR 800

While all member countries possess highly-developed systems of demographic statistics, the wide diversity of practice with regard to the publication and presentation of results makes it very difficult to obtain comparable and up-to-date information necessary to study trends within the Community. The present publication is designed to make good this deficiency. All the principal series of demographic statistics are covered, namely population by sex and age-groups, births, deaths, migration, marriages, divorces, fertility, life expectancy and population projections. Both absolute numbers and rates are given in considerable detail for countries and for the total Community. Data for Portugal and Spain are included using format identical with that for member countries. **(3. 1. 1/83)**

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT — 1970-82

ISBN 92-825-4162-2 (DA/DE/EN/FR/IT/NL)

Format A 4, 275 pages, price BFR 700

The statistical yearbook on employment and unemployment covers in a single volume all statistical aspects of the labour market:
— population;
— working population and employment according to sex, status and sector of activity;
— gainful employment in industry and the services (ISIC and NACE nomenclatures);
— registered unemployment, vacancies and job placements;
— industrial disputes;
— working hours;

A special chapter is devoted to employment in the iron and steel industry.

As far as they are available, the data relate to the years from 1970 to 1982 in the 10 Member States of the European Community; the main data on Spain and Portugal are given in an annex.

The main variables are illustrated by about 15 graphs. **(3. 4. 1/83)**

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT — STATISTICAL BULLETIN — 1-1984

(EN/FR)

Format A 4, 8 pages, price BFR 100

THIS Bulletin presents the position of women as regards employment and unemployment. Data on comparable unemployment rates at the end of 1983 are included together with data on part-time working, activity by economic sector and employment trends by sector of economic activity since 1970. A commentary emphasizes the most relevant developments as regards women and is amply illustrated by 6 graphs.

(3. 4. 2/84)

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT — STATISTICAL BULLETIN — 2-1984

(EN/FR)

Format A 4, 18 pages, price BFR 100

This bulletin gives the latest data on employment in the iron and steel industry (ECSC) and is in continuation of the hitherto half-yearly series of figures published for the Community of Nine.

It contains altogether 12 tables covering the workforce (salaried staff and manual workers), entrants, leavers (distinguishing reasons for leaving), hours worked, age structure and selected regional results.

A short commentary, with diagrams, is given on developments in the years 1980 to 1983 and is concerned in particular with the make-up of leavers. **(3. 4. 2/84)**

STRUCTURE OF EARNINGS 1978/79 — PRINCIPAL RESULTS
Volume 2 — FRANCE

ISBN 92-825-3888-5 (DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/IT/NL)

Format A 4, 703 pages BFR 1 500

This publication contains 34 tables, published separately for each country, showing the main results of the Community survey on the structure and distribution of earnings in industry, wholesale and retail distribution, banking and insurance in 1978/79. **(3. 6. 2/83)**

LABOUR COSTS

Volume 1: Principal results

ISBN 92-825-4016-2 (DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/IT/NL)

Format A 4, 256 pages, price BFR 150

Volume 2: Results by size classes and regions

ISBN 92-825-4017-0 (DA/DE/EN/FR/GR/IT/NL)

Format A 4, 291 pages, price BFR 200

Volumes 1 + 2: ISBN 92-825-4018-9, price BFR 325

Results of the 1981 survey on labour costs in industry, commerce, banking and insurance.

Vol. 1 — Global results and cost structure.
Vol. 2 — Results by size classes and regions.

(Complete edition on microfiches) **(adaption)**

Theme 4

STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIY OF INDUSTRY 1979-80

ISBN 92-825-4199-1 (DA/DE/EN/FR/IT/NL)

Format A 4, 245 pages, price BFR 900

The publication contains the main results for 1979 and 1980 of the coordinated annual inquiry into industrial activity, carried out by the Member States pursuant to a Council Directive of 6 June 1972.

(4. 1. 2/83)

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION 1-1984

ISSN 0254-0649 (DE/EN/FR)

Format A 4, 156 pages, price BFR 225

Quarterly and annual statistics in physical units of production of: man-made fibres, textiles, clothing, leather and footwear, pulp, paper and board, office machines, data-processing equipment, domestic electrical appliances. **(4. 1. 3/84)**

ENERGY STATISTICS YEARBOOK — 1982

ISBN 92-825-4213-0 (DE/EN/FR/IT)

Format A 4, 211 pages, price BFR 750

This yearbook groups in a single publication an extensive volume of statistical information relating to the energy economy of the Community and the Member States, particularly for the most recent year available.

The first chapter covers the characteristic data of energy economics in recent years.

The second chapter concerns the overall 'energy supplied' balance-sheets for the Community and each Member State for the most recent year. These balance-sheets are presented in detailed form in specific units and in terajoules, and in a more aggregated form in terajoules and in tonnes oil equivalent.

The third chapter gives historical series for each energy source for the principal aggregates characterizing the structures of energy economics. **(4. 2. 1/83)**

Theme 5

COMMUNITY SURVEY ON THE STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS 1979-80

Volume I — Introduction and methodological basis

ISBN 92-825-4093-6 (DA),
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Format A 4, 152 pages, price BFR 350 **(5. 4. 1/83)**

To be published

Theme 1

YEARBOOK OF REGIONAL STATISTICS

ISBN 92-825-4219-X (DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/IT/NL)

Format A 4, approximately 250 pages, price BFR 1000

In this publication, the Statistical Office of the European Communities gives the latest statistics relating to economic and social factors in the regions of the European Community.

The issue contains information on:
(i) population and its structure;
(ii) employment and unemployment;
(iii) education, health and various social indicators;
(iv) economic aggregates;
(v) the main series on the different sectors of the economy: agriculture, industry, energy and the services sector;
(vi) the Community's financial participation in investments.

The main regional indicators are also presented in a series of coloured maps. **(1. 2. 1/83)**

Theme 2

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS ESA — AGGREGATES 1960-82

(EN/FR)

Format A 4, approximately 150 pages, price BFR 500

Results of the principal aggregates of the accounts drawn up according to ESA (European system of integrated economic accounts). Development and comparison between the Community as a whole (EUR 10), the 10 Member States, the two prospective member countries (Spain, Portugal), the United States and Japan. **(2. 1. 1/83)**

REGIONAL STATISTICS — THE COMMUNITY'S FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN INVESTMENTS — 1982

ISBN 92-825-4323-4 (DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/IT/NL)

Format A 4, approximately 92 pages, price BFR 250

Updating of and commentary on the data relating to the regional dispersion of the financial participations agreed by the Community in 1982 with regard to regional development, according to the following forms:
— European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guidance section;
— European Regional Development Fund (ERDF);

— European Coal and Steel Community and European Atomic Energy Community (ECSC Treaty, Articles 54 and 56.2a, and Euratom Treaty);
— European Investment Bank (EIB). Loans from the Bank's own resources and from the resources of the New Community Instrument for borrowing and lending (NCI). **(2. 5. 1/83)**

Theme 3

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT — STATISTICAL BULLETIN — 3 — 1984
(EN/FR)
Format A 4, approximately 16 pages, price BFR 100

This bulletin presents the first available data for employment in the European Community in 1983.

Around 15 statistical tables provide data on working population and activity rates and employment and employees in employment by sector of economic activitiy for seven Member States and for the total of the European Community. A breakdown by sex is provided for all the above data.

A commentary, illustrated by several graphics, emphasizes the most important aspects of the current situation in the labour market. **(3. 4. 2/84)**

Periodicals

► Monthly bulletins

EUROSTATISTICS — DATA FOR SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
(THEME 1)
ISSN 0252-8266 (DE/EN/FR)
Format A 4, approximately 90 pages, price BFR 1 250 annual subscription

This publication is produced essentially by an automatic photocomposition process after an extraction from the Cronos data bank. Four kinds of information are published in Eurostatistics: an article 'In brief' which looks at the latest trends in the available, a visual presentation of the most important economic series for the Community and the Member States, 'Community tables' containing data harmonized by Eurostat on the basis of common criteria and 'Country tables' with a selection of the economic indicators most often used in each country. The bulletin appears at the beginning of each month in a trilingual edition.

(1. 1. 3/84)

UNEMPLOYMENT — MONTHLY BULLETIN (THEME 3)

ISSN 0252-9890 (DE), 0252-9920 (EN), 0252-9912 (FR), 0252-9904 (IT)

Format A 4, approximately 10 pages, price BFR 480 annual subscription

This bulletin, which appears on about the 20th of each month, shows the total of registered unemployed in each of the Member States of the European Community as at the end of the previous month.

Figures are given for the total of unemployed together with unemployed persons under 25 years broken down by sex.

These data are presented in absolute terms, as percentage changes, and as a proportion of the civilian working population. Figures are also shown for unemployed foreigners, the numbers of vacancies and vacancies filled during the month.

In addition to the data the main features of and trends in the labour market are commented on briefly and illustrated by a graph. **(3. 4. 3/84)**

INDUSTRIAL SHORT-TERM TRENDS (THEME 4)

ISSN 0254-0231 (DE/EN/FR)

Format A 4, approximately 60 pages, price BFR 800 annual subscription

Publication of the indicators forwarded by the Member States pursuant to Council Directive 72/211, in particular: indices of industrial production, turnover, orders received, number of employees, gross wages and salaries by branch of industry and for industry as a whole, and indices of the value of imports and exports for the same branches. A short special chapter is devoted to the short-term indicators for the building and civil engineering sector, as laid down in Council Directive 78/166. As from 1984, a supplementary chapter will be introduced, containing indices of producer prices of industrial products. Certain issues may include, in the form of an annex or supplementary chapter, statistics which are not published regularly. Supplements on methodology and/or containing retrospective series complete the ordinary publication. **(4. 1. 5/84)**

COAL — MONTHLY BULLETIN (THEME 4)

ISSN 0378-357X (DE/EN/FR)

Format A 4, approximately 24 pages, price BFR 480 annual subscription

Monthly update of the principal statistical series characterizing the short-term movements in the coal industry. Depending on availability, supplementary tables and commentary will cover the most important developments in this sector. **(4. 2. 5/84)**

ELECTRICAL ENERGY — MONTHLY BULLETIN (THEME 4)

ISSN 0378-3561, approximately 16 pages, price BFR 480 annual subscription

Monthly update of the principal statistical series characterizing the short-term movements in the electrical economy in general and fuel consumption in power stations in particular. Depending on availability, supplementary tables and commentary will cover the most important developments in this sector.

(4. 2. 6/84)

HYDROCARBONS — MONTHLY BULLETIN (THEME 4)
ISSN 0378-3731 (DE/EN/FR)
Format A 4, approximately 32 pages, price BFR 950 annual subscription

Monthly update of the principal statistical series characterizing the short-term movements in the petroleum and gas industries. Depending on availability, supplementary tables and commentary will cover the most important developments in this sector. **(4. 2. 7/84)**

MONTHLY BULLETIN — IRON AND STEEL (THEME 4)
ISSN 0378-7559 (DE/EN/FR/IT)
Format A 4, approximately 17 pages, price BFR 720 annual subscription

Short-term economic statistics (monthly) on production of pig-iron, crude steel, steel mill products, consumption and receipts of scrap and number of short-time workers. **(4. 3. 3/84)**

MONTHLY EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN (THEME 6)
ISSN 0378-3723 (DA/DE/EN/FR/GR/IT/NL)
Format A 4, approximately 200 pages, price BFR 2 840 annual subscription

General summary of foreign trade of the European Community by country and by product. Trends in EC trade by country and by product. Trade of the main non-EC countries. Indices. **(6. 2. 7/84)**

► Quarterly bulletins

MONEY AND FINANCE (THEME 2)
(EN/FR)
Format A 4, approximately 60 pages, price BFR 1 100 annual subscription

This publication consists of two parts: one containing a number of structural financial indicators, covering the period 1973 to 1983 and a second part in which annual, quarterly and monthly time-series data will be provided.

The structural indicators will refer to the evolution of certain financial aggregates in relation to the GDP, the consolidated balance sheets of credit institutions, the money supply, the public finance, the exchange rates and the foreign reserves.

As regards the time-series, they contain data for the short-term economic analysis and covers the following subjects: money supply, capital markets, public finance, interest rates, exchange rates and official reserves. Moreover, a chapter of the bulletin will provide statistics related to the European Monetary System.
(2. 4. 1/84)

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS — QUARTERLY DATA (THEME 2)

ISSN 0251-1800 (EN FR)

Format A 4, approximately 90 pages, price **BFR** 480 annual subscription

This publication provides the latest available quarterly and annual data on the global balance of payments (flows) of each European Community country, as well as for the Community as a whole (EUR 10 and EUR 9), of each of the candidate countries (Spain and Portugal) and of the United States and Japan. The publication includes comparative tables with the main balance items of a certain number of industrialized countries.

The data are expressed in millions of European currency units (Mio ECU); they are presented according to the Eurostat's balance-of-payments schema and cover the three latest annual and the nine latest quarterly available periods. **(2. 6. 3/84)**

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (THEME 4)

ISSN 0254-0649 (DE/EN/FR)

Format A 4, approximately 200 pages, price **BFR** 660 annual subscription

Statistics of industrial production by product. Annual and quarterly data on production of industrial products in the Member States of the EC. **(4. 1. 3/84)**

QUARTERLY IRON AND STEEL BULLETIN (THEME 4)

ISSN 0378-3510 (DE/EN/FR/IT)

Format A 4, approximately 130 pages, price **BFR** 1 900 annual subscription

Annual, quarterly and monthly statistics on employment, consumption of raw materials, production of iron ore, pig-iron, crude steel, finished steel products and end products, on works deliveries and receipts, stocks, on external and internal ECSC steel and scrap trade and on apparent steel consumption.

(4. 3. 2/84)

ANIMAL PRODUCTION (THEME 5)

ISSN 0250-6580 (DE/EN/FR/IT)

Format A 4 approximately 130 pages, price **BFR** 1 450 annual subscription

Monthly stattistics on:

1. Meat: slaughterings, external trade and gross indigenous production expressed in number of heads and tonnes;
2. Eggs and poultry: eggs placed in incubation, chicks hatched, external trade in chicks and chicks placed;
3. Milk and dairy products: cows' milk collected, production od dairy products;

as well as results of surveys, supply balance sheets forecasts, etc. **(5. 2. 1/84)**

CROP PRODUCTION (THEME 5)

ISSN 0378-3588 (DE/EN/FR/IT)

Format A 4, approximately 120 pages, price BFR 1 450 annual subscription

The most recent information on:

1. Land use, crop production of arable land (area, yield, production), fruit and vegetable production;
2. Meteorological reports;
3. Supply balances for crop products. **(5. 1. 3/84)**

AGRICULTURAL PRICES (THEME 5)
(on microfiches) (DE/EN/FR/IT)

Price for the complete series BFR 1 100

The microfiches for agricultural prices contain for the 10 Community Member States the monthly and annual 'selling prices of crop products', 'selling prices of animal products' and 'purchase prices of the means of agricultural production'. The series have been extracted from those stored in the Cronos data bank (PACO domain). Monthly prices cover the past two years; where no monthly series exist, annual prices are shown for 1972 to 1983 inclusive. The prices are expressed in national currencies and in ECU.

The selling prices of crop and animal products comprise prices for the major products at the agricultural producer level, and also the prices of a number of processed products of the food industry. The purchase prices of the means of agricultural production relate to the prices paid by farmers for the purchase of feedingstuffs, fertilizers, fuels, seeds and plant protection products. **(5. 3. 4/84)**

NIMEXE — EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS COUNTRIES — PRODUCTS SCE 2112 (THEME 6)
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Prices are available on application.

Imports/Exports of special trade under the nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (Nimexe).

Description — values and quantities (Nimexe 6/4/2)
— all statistical systems together
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— quarterly (January—March, January—June, January—September, January—December).

(6. 2. 4/84)

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(adaptation)

SITC — EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS COUNTRIES — PRODUCTS SCE 2311 (THEME 6)
(microfiche)

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— all statistical systems together
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(6. 2. 4/84)

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(6. 2. 5/84)

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(adaptation)

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Description — values and quantities (SITC 5)
— supplementary units (SITC 5 SU)
— all statistical systems together
— no threshold
— quarterly (January—March, January—June, January—September, January—December).

(6. 2. 5/84)

► Half-yearly bulletins

EARNINGS IN INDUSTRY AND SERVICES (THEME 3)

ISSN 0378-3596 (DA/DE/GR/EN/FR/IT/NL)

Format A 4, approximately 290 pages, price BFR 860 annual subscription

This publication which is updated every six months contains harmonized data on manual workers' hourly earnings in industry, and non-manual workers' monthly earnings in industry, commerce, banking and insurance. These data are broken down by industrial groups according to NACE, by sex and, for certain countries, by region. In addition, this publication shows, for manual and non-manual workers combined and broken down by industrial group, some data on total hourly costs in industry (results of the three-yearly Community surveys and updated estimates for intermediate years). **(3. 6. 1/84)**

EC AGRICULTURAL PRICE INDICES (OUTPUT AND INPUT) (THEME 5)

ISSN 0250-5967 (DE/EN/FR/IT)

Format A 4, approximately 120 pages, price BFR 950 annual subscription

This publication shows the trend of the monthly EC indices of producer prices of agricultural products and of purchase prices of the means of agricultural production during the latest 13 months for EUR 9, EUR 10 and each of the 10 Member States. Each of the price indices is the result of a base-weighted (Laspeyres) calculation using value-weights determined for the base year 1975 for a fixed basket of agricultural products (output index) or of a selection of goods and services (input index). 1975 serves as the reference year. Number 1/1984 of this publication shows in addition the trend of the annual price indices from 1973 to 1983. A comment on the most recent evolution together with a presentation of rates of change and some graphics are to be found before the index tables. A weighting schema by country and product is also included.

(5. 3. 1/84)

PUBLISHED

ACP — BASIC STATISTICS — 1984

ISBN 92-825-4214-9 (EN/FR)

Format A 4, 176 pages, price BFR 400

This volume brings together the principal economic indicators of the ACP States for recent years.

Three kinds of tables can be distinguished:

(i) summary tables presenting the situation of ACP countries in a wider context;

(ii) tables describing the situation in each country;

(iii) tables related to the application of the agreements between the Community and the ACP countries.

In addition to the 63 countries who have signed the second Lomé Convention, this publication also includes Angola and Mozambique, as well as Mediterranean States which are linked to the European Community by special association agreements.

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The information provided on each publication is as follows: 'theme' to which the work belongs, title of volume, international classification number (ISBN or ISSN), languages in which available, format, number of pages, price and brief summary of content. For practical reasons, the price is given in only one currency, the BFR (Belgian franc) which is the legal tender in the country of publication (the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg). The price thus indicated applies when orders are placed directly with the **Office for Official Publications of the European Communities** (L-2985 Luxembourg, 5 rue du Commerce — postal cheque account (CCP) 19190-81 — bank current account BIL 8-109/6003/300) and serves as a rough guide to the prices in the various national currencies in the event of purchase from the sales offices which are listed on the third page of the cover. The languages in which the publications are available are shown by the following abbreviations: M = multilingual, i.e. in all the official languages of the European Communities, DA = Danish, DE = German, GR = Greek, EN = English, FR = French, IT = Italian NL = Dutch.

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EUROSTATISTICS
Data for short-term economic analysis

ISSN 0252-8266 (DE/EN/FR)

Format A 4, approximately 95 pages

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