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Accounts, surveys and statistics

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NEWS ITEMS

Conference of the Directors-General of the National Statistical Institutes



Mr de Oliveira



Mr Pfeiffer

The 65th Conference of the Directors-General of the National Statistical Institutes (DGINS) was held in Portugal on 28 to 30 May 1986 to mark the occasion of the first meeting with Spain and Portugal as full members. Mr Jose Francisco Graça Costa, President of the Instituto Nacional de Estatística led the Portuguese delegation at the conference. Among the items on the agenda was the examination of the statistical implications of the completion of the internal market. The conference was also addressed by Mr Alois Pfeiffer, the Commissioner responsible for the Statistical Office of the European Communities on the subject of priorities and resources for Community statistics. Mr Pfeiffer, during his visit to Portugal, had discussions with Mr Luis Francisco Valente de Oliveira, Minister responsible for Planning and Regional Policy. Mr Valente de Oliveira and Mr Jose Albino da Silva Pineda, Secretary of State for Planning and Regional Development, were also present at the dinner offered by the Portuguese Government to Mr Pfeiffer and to participants at the conference.



Mr Ronchetti and Mr Graça Costa

The work of Eurostat in 1985

1. General

In 1985 two new major themes dominated the work on European Community statistics.

1.1 First, the final preparations for the entry of Spain and Portugal into the European Community. As from January 1986 the EC has 12 Member States and the Community statistical system is immediately extended to cover the two new members. Many years of close collaboration prior to entry have helped to ensure that the transition will be as smooth as possible, although the burden of meeting Community statistical requirements, many of them laid down by EC law, is heavy. Moreover, enlargement has an impact on the Community system — for example, increasing the importance of agriculture, fishery and tourism statistics.

1.2 Second, the new European Commission which began work in 1985 has undertaken new initiatives, of which the most significant is a proposal, endorsed by the Heads of the Member States at the European Council in June 1985 'to achieve a single large market by 1992'. A programme of measures for the removal of the physical, technical and fiscal barriers between Member States has been drawn up. Eurostat, in collaboration with the national statistical services, is examining the statistical implications of this programme both for national statistics as well as for Community statistics. Eurostat is preparing proposals as regards trade statistics between Member States (see paragraph 4.1) but the examination will cover other aspects, including national accounts and balance of payments.

1.3 A seminar on external trade indices was held in Luxembourg on the 6 to 8 November 1985 under the chairmanship of Professor Fourgeaud, Paris University 1 and Ceper-

map.¹ Participants came not only from European countries, but also from North America, Africa and the Far East. International organizations were well represented. The seminar considered current theory and practice in this field and was informed of the development by Eurostat of a system of indices designed to produce indices for the European Community using harmonized Community statistics. A report of the proceedings will be published.

2. Processing and dissemination of statistical information

2.1 Eurostat continued its drive to promote statistical information in conjunction with the Commission's Spokesman's Group and the Cabinet responsible for the Statistical Office. On the external side information activities were diversified, with visits, conferences, introductory courses, demonstrations and seminars aimed at interested sectors.

A special brochure concerning the Community of Twelve was released during the Milan summit meeting.

A specific action was undertaken *vis-à-vis* the European Parliament.

A special issue of *Eurostat News* analysing the results of the European elections in 1984 was released during a demonstration of Eurostat publications at the July session in Luxembourg.

At the occasion of the enlargement to Spain and Portugal, information meetings took place in Madrid, Barcelona and Lisbon to

¹ Centre d'Etudes Prospectifs d'Economie Mathématique appliquées à la Planification.

present the work, publications and data-bases of the Statistical Office.

2.2 Within the scope of the Commission's general policy on computing, the adoption by Eurostat of a distributed systems architecture has had important implications for the organization and development of computing activities within the office.

In particular, this decentralization has been accompanied by:

- (i) a systematic management and administration of resources and a rationalization of their use;
- (ii) a necessity to concentrate Eurostat's requirements for statistical software to a minimum number of commercially available systems;
- (iii) a growth in the development of local applications, allowing, amongst other things, the introduction of information technology into areas which have not as yet been automated.

In order to improve the quality and freshness of statistical data collected by Eurostat, studies have been initiated into the possibility of using telecommunication between the office and the Member States, especially external trade data.

Certain developments involving new computing techniques have been integrated into the current work of the office, especially in the areas of graphics and automatic photocomposition, in conjunction with the new version of the statistical table generating system Osiris.

2.3 Efforts to increase the use of the Eurostat data bases have been undertaken in five different fields:

- (i) The literature on the form and content of the data bases has been updated and widely disseminated in three languages.
- (ii) Information has been provided systematically and regularly to in-house users,

which has led to a substantial increase in the use of the bases.

- (iii) The setting up of users' committees and appearances at specialist trade fairs and exhibitions has been an important factor in increasing the use of Eurostat data both by commercial hosts and in administrations directly connected to the Eurostat bases.
- (iv) New statistics have been compiled which make it possible to follow more accurately the contents of the bases, the use made of them and the main users.
- (v) Lastly, to facilitate the widest possible access to the most recent data an extract entitled 'Eurostatus', which contains 40 indicators for each country, is available to users every day. In addition, some 20 pages of statistical information are available on the Reuters system.

3. General economic statistics

3.1 *National accounts*

In 1985 Eurostat continued its conceptual work for the revision of the international systems of national accounts. This work is carried out in close cooperation with the OECD, UN Statistical office, IMF and the World Bank.

The working party examined a package of proposals by Eurostat relating to the definition of total consumption of the population, including, in addition to consumers' expenditure, the individualized part of government consumption, the definition of consumption subsidies, the individualized consumption of enterprises and the implications of these possible changes for the income measures.

All these aspects are brought together in a coherent proposal for the revision of the international systems of national accounts.

The experts now have to refine and finalize the detail of the concepts and definitions.

The national and sector balance sheets are the principal area of development of the national accounts at the moment. In 1985 Eurostat, in conjunction with the working party, produced rules for the treatment and valuation of the stock of housing.

3.2 *Classifications*

In 1985 there was one of the two-yearly meetings of the joint Eurostat/UNSO working party on the harmonization of classifications at world level. The bulk of the meeting was given over to a discussion of a first draft of a classification of activities and products for services. This draft and work to finalize the classification for goods must now be completed by the United Nations.

Following this meeting Eurostat concentrated on preparing a revised version of the Nace and adapting the CPC to the Nace so that the Community classifications fit into the world system of economic classifications.

3.3 All the work on Phase IV of the purchasing power parity exercise was completed, with the exception of the publication of the results at world level, in which Eurostat is collaborating with the UNSO and the OECD.

However, Eurostat's main efforts were devoted to the collection of data for Phase V (1985). Several price surveys were conducted during the year in the Member States (plus Spain, Portugal and Austria), in accordance with the work schedule drawn up at the end of 1983. The price surveys have in fact already been completed, with the exception of that on foodstuffs.

Eurostat once again took responsibility for coordinating work for the United Nations' international comparison project in a large number of African countries. The Com-

munity is also working closely with the OECD and the Economic Commission for Europe, with a view to expanding the field of comparison to the third countries concerned.

Moreover, Eurostat is actively involved in world efforts aimed in particular at making worldwide comparisons by means of the core country system.

3.4 *Work on weightings*

In 1985 Eurostat embarked upon a major project on weightings. The weightings applied for the various Member States in 1985-86 need to be checked, and large-scale surveys were therefore conducted, with particular reference to officials' expenses, rents and prices.

Moreover, price surveys had to be conducted in the capital cities of the two new Member States in order to establish weightings for these countries.

The decision to standardize the remuneration system for officials working outside the Community entails a substantial amount of work. In 1985 Eurostat cooperated closely with other international organizations working in this area (OECD and UN) in order to avoid duplication of effort. There are plans to coordinate the work and exchange basic information.

3.5 *Family budgets*

The publication of the standardized results of the national surveys of household expenditure was completed in 1985. All the results for the Member States (except Luxembourg) and Spain are now available in two publications.

The importance of family budget surveys increased during 1985, since they are potential sources of statistical data on poverty. Eurostat has embarked upon research in this area.

3.6 *Consumer price indices*

There have been no changes in the work schedule for this area. Eurostat updated the report on the comparison of the methods used by the Member States to calculate consumer price indices.

3.7 *Regional accounts and statistics*

Application:

establishing the statistical machinery for establishing the priority regions for aid from the European Social Fund based on a combination of the unemployment and GDP indices.

Development:

- (i) first regional economic accounts for agriculture (reference year 1982);
- (ii) consultations with Spain and Portugal, with a view to extending regional statistics to include these two new countries;
- (iii) study of a management system for a nomenclature of places in the Community.

Dissemination:

- (i) expansion of the Regio data base and development of the three-language (DE, EN and FR) interrogation procedure;
- (ii) launching of a series of 'Rapid statistics' on the regions.

3.8 *Financial accounts and statistics*

As part of the work on financial balance sheets, an initial pilot questionnaire was sent to the Member States and met with broad approval. As from the end of 1986 Eurostat will therefore send out a regular questionnaire on financial balance sheets.

Eurostat is also continuing its efforts to obtain virtually total statistical coverage of

the financial accounts (flows) of the Community countries. After covering Denmark, it proposes to turn its attention to those of Greece in 1986.

In future, an analysis will be made of the financial accounts, and these documents will be disseminated in the same way as those for the United Kingdom, Italy, France, the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany for the reference year 1983.

On the subject of financial indicators, a new data bank storing information principally on ECU-denominated debenture issues is in the process of being set up.

3.9 *Balance of payments*

International trade in services

In preparation for the GATT negotiations, Eurostat is stepping up the collection and analysis of data on trade in services.

During 1985, analysts and statisticians concentrated mainly on determining the requirements for statistical information, establishing the present state of the statistical instrument and assessing the scope for improvement in the short and long term (feasibility studies).

The Community is adopting two closely-related approaches to this task:

- (1) the collection and analysis of data on the basis of sources already available;
- (2) the development of the requisite methodological and operating base for a statistical system that is geared to future needs.

At its meeting in Luxembourg on 7 and 8 March 1985 the Eurostat Working Party on Balances of Payments approved the work schedule.

This schedule — which was submitted to the DGINS Conference held in Heerlen from 8 to

10 May 1985 — was drawn up on the basis of the satisfactory results of the data collection exercise designed to obtain from the Member States the statistical information needed to prepare the Community's contribution to the work of GATT. It encompasses the following:

- (i) improvement of methods;
- (ii) collection of detailed data on certain service headings;
- (iii) geographical breakdown of flows;
- (iv) breakdown by sector (what services are produced or consumed by what sectors?);
- (v) methods of compiling certain ancillary accounts.

Eurostat is currently attending to these matters, with the assistance of the Member States.

Experience has shown that the second stage in the design and implementation of a system of statistics on international trade and services will require more comprehensive figures than those which are traditionally recorded in balances of payments.

Imbalance in intra-Community transactions

As part of the IMF's worldwide programme, Eurostat is currently studying imbalance in intra-Community transactions, with a view identifying ways of making the requisite adjustments to data for the purposes of more detailed analysis.

4. External trade, ACP and non-member countries, and transport statistics

4.1 Methodology and classification

Many meetings have been held to develop Community-codes for the purpose of sim-

plifying intra-Community and extra-Community trade. These activities are carried out in the context of the system of Single Administrative Document which should enter into force 1 January 1988.

Presently the Statistical Office of the European Communities is preparing a draft of a Regulation taking in account the requirements of the White Paper on the internal market which should enter into force starting 1 January 1992. This Regulation aims at a purely statistical system of collection since according to the White Paper, customs activities will be completely eliminated within the common market.

4.2 Nomenclature

Work has continued on integrating the Harmonized System into the nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States (Nimexe). Hopefully, this task will be finished soon.

4.3 Transport

Eurostat participates regularly in the work of the Group of Experts on Transport Statistics (GE6) of the Inland Transport Committee and has hitherto concentrated on aspects related to the main policy areas of the European Economic Community: road, rail and inland waterways (three EEC Directives on the statistics of the carriage of goods: 78/546/EEC, 80/1177/EEC, 80/1119/EEC).

On a joint-proposal from Eurostat and IRU, a new item was introduced in 1984 into the work programme of GE6: 'the study of insufficiently harmonized transport statistics and the development of methods and estimations to reconcile them in the short-term'. In 1985, the SOEC presented a first example of such reconciliation: 'Harmonization of international road transport statistics' (STATRA 266).

The UN/ECE Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures has been active in developing data elements and codes (including Recommendation No 19 'Modes of Transport'). Eurostat participated in order to ensure that EEC requirements (inland waterways, etc.) were incorporated and has presented 'Rules of Application' for this code for adoption, it is hoped, at the next session (TRADE/WP4/R273).

4.4 *Data transmission*

The Community external trade statistics were collected regularly every month on the basis of the Nimexe nomenclature in accordance with the basic regulations and transmitted to Eurostat.

At the beginning of 1986 the statistics of all the Member States are up to date and congratulations are in order to all the national administrations for the great efforts which were made in order to overcome the difficulties intimated earlier.

Preparations are already under way for the introduction of the Harmonized System and the unique document for the collection of statistics.

In the context of the innovation project Cad-dia, work is continuing which is aimed at the introduction of collection and transmission of external trade data by new methods of telecommunications. A keyword Retrieval System, based on the Harmonized System, is also being developed in this field.

4.5 *Production of EC statistics*

Pilot projects which were started earlier have been interrupted due to transmission difficulties. They will restart this year. The calculation of results in other more aggregated nomenclatures such as SITC and textiles is still suffering from the use of numerous secret Nimexe positions. A satisfactory, workable system has not yet been found at Community

level. Once more the Working Group will have to make a concentrated effort to find a solution to these problems.

4.6 *Dissemination*

External trade data bank

The results of the external trade statistics of the Community, expressed in the Nimexe nomenclature and derived nomenclatures such as the SITC, Nace, CCT, textiles etc. has regularly been made available 'on-line' under the name Comext-Eurostat. Also, several external trade series are incorporated in Cronos.

This data bank is disseminated externally by the host company CISI. The only other external users directly connected to the Commission data base are the national statistical offices.

The sale of microfiches and magnetic tapes

This was promoted by the production of a full catalogue providing for modulated dissemination of the various types of statistics produced.

User's guide to external trade statistics

The second edition has been drawn up and will be widely distributed in all the Community languages as well as, for the first time, Portuguese and Spanish.

Publications on hard copy

The monthly bulletin and Nimexe 'Analytical tables' were brought out regularly and at very short notice.

For the first time a yearbook with historical series has been published under this title.

As a consequence of budgetary restrictions and the development of electronic dissemination, the office has replaced the paper publi-

cation of SITC analytical tables by microfiches.

Promotional events

Many promotional events and training courses for users in new methods of consulting data banks were organized within the Commission and also for external users.

4.7 Support for the commercial policy of the Community

In the context of trade negotiations, the GSP statistics (Generalized system of tariff preferences) are collected and processed.

The system of collection of these statistics must be coordinated at national level with the surveillance system of the customs services. Numerous problems of discordance between the two sources are apparent and demand special attention from the national statistical services.

For the multilateral GATT negotiations a special data bank has been developed in order to give on-line access to the tariff statistics of the Community and of third countries.

This communication system has been completed by the installation of a local support unit at the disposal of the Community delegation in Geneva. These systems will form the basis for the work regarding the enlargement of the Community and the introduction of the Harmonized System. In the future they will be extended to other statistics in order that they may be used for the new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

4.8 Analysis and development

Analysis

Analysis of EC trade with developing countries. The two studies completed in 1985 were both mainly for internal use. Both dealt with the most internationally competitive

developing countries, one generally, the second in relation to the generalized system of preferences where severe data problems caused difficulties. A brochure giving a simple treatment of EC trade with China was produced on the occasion of the 1985 new enlarged cooperation agreement between the EC and China.

Indices of external trade

A production system for calculating external trade unit value indices is now functioning and values of the last five years are being calculated. First results have been discussed with Member States. A seminar on this subject was held in early November 1985.

Technical cooperation

The technical cooperation programme has continued to expand. This reflects the interest shown by beneficiary countries and the priority given by the Commission to cooperation with developing countries. Particular emphasis continues to be placed on close collaboration with the Directorate-General for Development with EC Member States and with international organizations. The main projects in progress are:

- (i) *Training of statisticians*: following approval of the recommendations of the Eurostat study on training needs in Africa, a first set of actions for funding by the European Development Fund (regional part) are being implemented.
- (ii) *WAEC¹ external trade statistics*: work is proceeding on (a) implementing in WAEC countries the methodological regulation and on (b) computerizing the WAEC secretariat. A study has been completed reconciling the WAEC external trade nomenclature and the ECO-WAS² customs nomenclature in the framework of the Harmonized System.

¹ Western African Economic Community.

² Economic Community of Western African States.

The statistics interface of Unctad's Asy-cuda project (customs computerization — the source of external trade statistics in an increasing number of West African countries) is being supported.

- (iii) *ICP-Africa*: arrangements have been made for Phase V (24 African countries).
- (iv) *National accounts*: A test action is underway in Benin which may be extended to the Congo. With the help of the German Federal Statistical Office a programme to support the Tanzanian CBS is being mounted. More general aspects of the role of NA in developing countries are being studied with the French and UK authorities.
- (v) *Income/expenditure surveys*: the EDF-funded project in Benin is well under way. A similar EDF-funded project in Togo has started.
- (vi) *Food strategy*: Eurostat is associated with those Community projects which have a statistical character (CILSS, Kenya, etc.). Eurostat's detailed complementary work in Mali is progressing well. Based on detailed feasibility studies in Tanzania various projects to strengthen statistics there are being mounted. A first investigation has been made of needs in the Horn of Africa.
- (vii) *Other*: statistical contributions to EC cooperation with certain countries and regions has continued including Yugoslavia, People's Republic of China and Latin America.

4.9 Statistics of developing countries

A programme of improvements to the existing contents of the relevant domains of the Cronos data base was successfully completed. Extensions to the contents which have been requested are being implemented. The 1986 version of the pocket size annual ACP: Basic

statistics has been issued comprising a selection of the main macroeconomic series on some 65 associated countries with figures generally to 1983. Preparations are well advanced for issuing both volumes of the two-yearly publication *Yearbook of foreign trade statistics* (i) ACP countries (ii) Mediterranean countries.

5. Energy and industrial statistics

5.1 Energy

Inter-secretariat energy group

Closer international cooperation has resulted in the creation, under the ECE/UNO in Geneva, of a 'Joint working group on energy statistics' involving the three most active European international organizations: ECE/UNO, OECD/IEA and Eurostat.

Three regular consultations take place each year which aim to:

- (i) maintain and build on the progress already made in the harmonization of definitions and balance sheet methodology;
- (ii) Coordinate the planning essential for a cohesive analysis of the energy economy;
- (iii) find practical ways of reducing the workload on countries and international organizations in collecting and publishing data.

The main issue at the first meetings was a draft 'Standard international classification of activities in the energy sector' which must maintain the appropriate links with the base classifications.

EIS/Baden project (Energy information system/Base de données énergétiques)

The EIS/Baden Project foresees the creation of a single central data base on energy within

the Commission. Work continued throughout 1985 towards its inauguration.

The structure of the data base has been established: it consists of logical entities, each containing all data accessible via a common key structure. The entities, classifications and associated access keys have been defined. The EIS/Baden base is at present being loaded and its contents have been extended to include energy production by nuclear power stations.

Several applications of the Eurostat and the Directorate-General for Energy have already been programmed. In particular the new Eurostat monthly publication Energy starting in 1986 will be compiled from this data base.

ENER-1 Project (Household energy consumption survey)

The ENER-1 Project, partly financed by the Commission's Directorate-General for Information Market and Innovation and developed by Eurostat, is a pilot project intended to obtain better information on household energy consumption by means of restricted surveys. The project is under way in five Community Member States. The first results will be available at the beginning of 1987.

Energy prices

- (a) Reviews of gas and electricity consumer prices from 1980 to 1985 were published and included explanations of tariff and taxation systems, an analysis of the results and an international comparison.
- (b) Very long chronological series on consumer prices are being entered into the new energy data bank (EIS/Baden).

Energy input-output tables 1980

Analysis of available data is complete, but delays by some Member States in forwarding

the results are hampering the statistical programme.

5.2 Industry

Industrial Statistics Committee

The Industrial Statistics Committee met in January 1985 to take stock of the problems facing Community industrial statistics and to discuss future possibilities.

Two of the main problems raised were the late forwarding of survey results and the serious losses of information at Community level caused by statistical confidentiality. It was decided that the latter should be investigated in greater depth.

Statistics on the structure and activity of industry

Certain Member States realized some progress concerning the delay in the transmission of results of the coordinated annual inquiry into industrial activity. It has been possible to gain one quarter as against the delay of the preceding publication and to publish the results for the year 1982 in October 1985 (instead of January/February 1986).

Because of the problems of statistical confidentiality which arise for the results broken down by size of enterprises, the final adjustment work for the publication containing those data for 1981 has been more difficult. The manuscript of this publication was prepared in January and the publication should appear soon. There is reason to note that the data broken down by size of enterprises are very much requested because they are an interesting source of statistics on the small and medium-sized enterprises.

Statistics of products

The Working Party 'Production Statistics' resumed its work to establish statistics on harmonized production; during two meetings,

in June and in December, a list of harmonized products was drawn up covering the field of 'Mechanical engineering' (Nace 32) and 'Electrotechnical products' (Nace 34). In these two sectors the so-called 'high-technology' products were particularly stressed (e.g. industrial robots, telecommunication material as well as electronic components).

Short-term economic indicators

New indices have been introduced into the monthly publication *Industrial short-term trends*. A supplement containing methodological remarks on the indices of industrial production on the European Community was published in September 1985.

The Working Party 'Building and Civil Engineering' met in October to take stock of the progress on the development and the transmission of the indicators foreseen by the Directive 78/166/CEE.

Preparatory work has been done for the collection of statistics from Spain and Portugal with the aim of constructing the EUR 12 indicators.

Statistical yearbook.

In 1985, Eurostat published for the first time a *Yearbook of industrial statistics*, which provides an aggregated, clear and comprehensive summary of industry in the EC. It endeavours to illustrate the position of industry as part of the European economy and regions, provides comparisons with industry of the United States of America and Japan, gives a general picture of industry in Spain and Portugal, and gives access to specialized and detailed series by reference to various publications and data banks. The first indications about the demand for this publication are encouraging.

Data base

A first prototype of a general consultation system for industrial data (SIMDI) has been

presented to the users in December 1985. In the course of 1986 the system should permit uniformed access to about 10 bases of different industrial data.

5.3 *Steel*

Programme of statistical research on consumption of steel by branches:

Realization of the second stage of the second triennial programme (1983—85) concerning figures for 1983. Preparation of the study plan 1985 concerning figures for 1984 (third stage of the triennial programme.)

Publication of a synthesis for the EC for 1983 in the *Iron and steel yearbook 1985*.

Establishment of 'Input-output steel' tables of the Member States:

Available at the end of 1985: Italy, Belgium-Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland (1975 or 1979/1980), Federal Republic of Germany (1978 and 1980).

Revision of statistical questionnaires:

decided by the Commission's Steel Statistic Committee at its meeting in December 1984:

Adaptation to technical progress: definitions of special steels (revision of Euronorm 20—74). Improvement of the calculation of apparent steel consumption. Revision of questionnaires concerning deliveries and receipts for better market analysis and calculation of steel consumption.

Actions concerning steel and raw materials statistics for Spain and Portugal.

Enlargement of the number of series on Cronos (SEF SIDR) to 18 000. Development of the data bank 'Steel' (two year project: beginning May 1985). Special legal basis for steel statistics (start in 1986).

Raw materials balance sheets:

Studies on recovery raw materials in Germany, France and Netherlands (1981—84).

Elaboration and publication of data on mineral raw materials from 1975–83. Preparation of the 1984 enquiry. Creation of a data base. Beginning of the test phase: December 1985.

6. Demographic and social statistics

6.1 *Employment and unemployment*

During 1985, Eurostat has continued its efforts to expand and improve the range of statistics on the subjects of employment and unemployment.

The annual publication, issued in March, has been complemented and updated by statistical bulletins, the most recent dealing with employment in an enlarged Community.

Considerable attention has been paid to preparation for the integration of the two new Member States. It has been possible to include data for these two countries not only in the first monthly unemployment bulletin of 1986, but also in almost all the tables in the 1986 edition of the annual volume *Employment and Unemployment*.

The Community labour force survey has been conducted annually since 1983; the regulation for the 1986 survey has been adopted by the Council, and covers all 12 Member States. The detailed publication containing results of the 1983 survey is available, as is a volume on the methods and definitions used.

This annual inquiry allows for improvements in the development of harmonized unemployment rates, valid for comparison between countries and regions of the Community. These rates are now regularly included in Eurostat publications.

On the methodological side Eurostat, in formal cooperation with the ILO, has started a study on the statistical aspects of measures

taken to fight unemployment, with a view to ensuring that they are treated consistently and in line with international recommendations in employment statistics.

6.2 *Earnings, labour costs and social protection*

Earnings and labour costs

Basic data for the labour costs survey 1984 was collected in Member States in mid-1985: validated data will be transmitted to Eurostat in the first quarter of 1986. Publication of the results is foreseen for the middle of the year 1986.

Exploiting results of the biennial survey on earnings in agriculture (autumn 1984) is under way. The results will be published in the first quarter of 1986.

Calculation of estimates of net earnings — in normal and real terms — of certain categories of manual workers (man, woman, separately, a couple with and without children, with one or two salaries) is under preparation. After consultation with the competent working party Eurostat foresees to publish these data in 1986.

Statistics of social protection

Development in 1985 of the European system of integrated social protection statistics (Esspros) comprised:

- (a) publication of 1983 data (statistical bulletin 1-85);
- (b) continuation of the analysis of the function 'Promotion of employment' (to be finished shortly);
- (c) study on four functions (illness, old age, expectation of life, family); harmonized data broken down by type of benefit will be available, synthesis will be done in 1986;

6.3 *Population, education and general social statistics*

Demography

Detailed country tables envisaged in the Community programme for exploitation of the 1981 censuses in member countries have now been received from most countries and work is proceeding with the preparation of a publication of comparative results. As far as shorter period population statistics are concerned, the regular annual volume of demographic statistics containing data for member countries and the Community up to end 1983 as well as preliminary 1984 figures, was issued in mid-1985. Such demographic and population data are now also available in the computerized data bank system 'Cronos'.

Education and training

Common questionnaires with OECD and Unesco for the collection of routine data (number of pupils, students, teachers, finance, etc.) came into use in 1985. At the time of writing we have not received sufficient replies to be able to judge whether there are any problems arising.

The size and pattern and comparability of vocational training systems is a matter of concern to the European Community, so there is a considerable demand for more statistics on training and re-training. But there is no internationally agreed definition and in any case statistics are hard to collect. Eurostat in 1985, in conjunction with Cedefop (Centre pour le Développement de la Formation professionnelle), have started the preparation of a draft international standard for vocational training statistics but more work has yet to be done.

Industrial accidents

The format for the collection of total accident statistics provisionally agreed in 1983 was confirmed in 1984 and data according to the format is now submitted on a regular basis.

The second stage of the project to present the various data collected on occupational injuries in the Member States in a compatible manner was adopted by the working party.

Concerning industrial accidents in the iron and steel industry, data was received from a common questionnaire providing for an in-depth study into fatal accidents and a first analysis made.

Environment statistics

During 1985 the office collaborated both with CES and OECD in their work on the international field and with DG XI (Environment and Consumer Protection) in the development of a Community system of environmental indicators.

7. **Agriculture and fisheries**

7.1 *Agricultural accounts and structures*

Economic accounts for agriculture and forestry (EAA and EAF)

The base year for calculations in constant prices was changed to 1980. Retroactive calculations of time series back to 1973 were made at the same time. Historical series of additional indicators of agricultural income are now available for most of the Member States from 1973 onwards. Regional agricultural accounts, for the year 1982, have been prepared by the Member Countries. Eurostat decided in addition to the ECU presentation to apply purchasing power standards to the EAA and EAF and to the sectoral income index.

Structure of agricultural holdings

1983 Farm structure survey

A publication was prepared which contains the non-typological and typological results for this survey.

Farm structure surveys for 1985 and 1987

The Council has adopted the regulation governing procedures for these surveys. The programme of tables has been adopted by the Commission.

Data bank on farm structure surveys

The system for extracting data from the farm structure surveys (FSSRS) is now operational.

Fruit and wine-growing surveys

The results of the 1982 fruit survey were published in 1984; a comparative study of the results of the 1977 and 1982 surveys was made and published in 1985. The results of the wine-growing survey have been published.

Agricultural price statistics

The most important task in 1985 was to terminate the re-basing of the EC agricultural price indices (output and input) to 1980 = 100. These indices are largely harmonized within the Community of Ten. The corresponding data are stored in the Cronos data bank, PRAG domain, which also contains the absolute agricultural prices. A new user handbook for the PRAG domain was published in August 1985.

A special publication entitled *Methodology of the EC agricultural price indices* will be available from January 1986.

The monthly and annual agricultural price indices (output and input) will also be available in deflated form in Cronos towards the end of the first half of 1986. The nominal agricultural price indices are deflated with the aid of the consumer price index.

Price series for cattle, pigs and sheep are currently being examined under a study contract; if appropriate, a new methodological base will be prepared to take account of the most recent developments in the agricultural

sector. In addition, consideration is being given to ways of setting up harmonized unit value statistics for the most important agricultural products.

Storage of the agricultural price statistics data for Spain will begin during 1986. It is not yet known when the data for Portugal will be available.

Animal production

Eurostat has received the report commissioned from an external expert on the survey and forecasting methods used in Member States in the beef, pork, sheep and goat sectors. The various language versions will be available in mid-1986.

The Commission decision which describes the statistics to be established by Member States in the milk and dairy products sector has been modified to take account of the developments noted in this sector. The Commission is currently studying the best means of implementing the methods of assessing the effect of the milk quotas, introduced in April 1984, not only on the dairy sector but also on other agricultural sectors.

Fishery Statistics

Work is at an advanced stage on the introduction of a new enlarged Cronos domain 'Fish', which includes data on catches by fishing region of commercial species, foreign trade in the major groups of fishery products, fishing fleet statistics, fishermen statistics and supply balance sheets for fishery products. Although the new domain (at 100 000 series) will be about five times larger than the old, the use of automatic up-dating procedures will result in a more efficient maintenance of the data base. The up-dating procedure for the catches by fishing region is integrated with the procedure for detecting discrepancies in other international data bases.

The statistical register of Community fishing vessels has been improved by the inclusion of

individual vessel records for FR of Germany. Discussions are being held for the inclusion of records for the Spanish and Portuguese fishing fleets.

Vegetable production

The totality of statistics on vegetable production in the Community was examined with Member States at the October 1985 meeting of the working party: state of harmonization of data, the data bank, data for Spain and Portugal, new products for the needs of the

CAP (common agricultural policy), Eurostat model for crop forecasting.

The Commission (DG VI, DG XII, Eurostat) has examined the possibility of a multi-annual programme to deal with crop forecasting, including new technologies, such as 'tele-detection'. From 1986, Eurostat will adapt its model for forecasts in the main crop-producing regions of the Community, and is planning a seminar for the information of Member States in September, dealing with the new technology applied to the statistical evaluation of agricultural land utilization.

Ovide, Reuters, and Eurostatistics New presentations for statistics



F. de Geuser¹

Eurostat News 2/1986 (Theme 9, Series C) introduced Eurostatus and highlighted this first attempt to extend the on-line use of data. Further work has taken the Eurostatus data bank as a starting point: Ovide (Videotex) and Reuters (specialist Videotex). At the same time the data from the monthly printed publication Eurostatistics (Theme 1, Series B) have been gathered into a single collection in Cronos ICG.

I. The aims

Eurostat's main current concern is to make the data available not only from large-scale specialist data banks whose operation requires trained economic and computer scientists, but also from smaller systems aimed at specific types of use or user.

(A) Ovide

Our political masters and our decision-makers frequently need 'quick summaries' of essential data readily accessible via the mass media without any particular constraints of hardware or specific user training, and for them Eurostat already produces short-term (monthly) and medium-term (half-yearly) reports. It seemed worthwhile having the updates to these files readily available on-line.

¹ F. de Geuser is Head of 'Dissemination' Specialized Service, Eurostat.



F. Tack²

Ovide, a Europe-wide system made available to its Members by the European Parliament, allows access to a wide range of practical information on the day-to-day functioning of the European Parliament (agenda, committees, directory, etc.) and on essential reading. Eurostat has a number of pre-formatted screens in Ovide with the same layout as the short and medium-term files and an easy-to-use menu-driven consultation procedure.

(B) Reuters

Reuters, the international news agency, has offered to Eurostat its specialized on-line information system which has some 100 000 subscribers around the world. Eurostat has never before had the opportunity to publish for a world-wide public of nearly 100 000.

Two categories of users hitherto scarcely within Eurostat's reach are now able to draw on European data: the stockbroking, financial and banking world, and the journalists who are amongst Reuters' subscribers. Screen pages of information and tables generally from Eurostatus are now available for consultation using a simple four-character code.

(C) Eurostatistics

Eurostatistics has the widest readership of any monthly Eurostat publication. For this reason

² F. Tack is responsible for the domain's management.

it seemed worthwhile to use the printed version as the basis for a new Cronos ICG collection. The aim of the exercise has been to allow *Eurostatistics'* traditional readers to update the printed publication's data quickly from Cronos without the somewhat arduous recourse to the classification plans, by using a series coding based on the printed publication itself. Another advantage it offers is that the publication provides a data availability table.

Ovide

Unemployment total

× 1 000

	6. 86	5. 86	4. 86	1985	1984
B	477,9	481,7	490,6	557,4	595,0
DK	184,0	195,3	213,2	242,0	271,5
D	2 078,2	2 122,0	2 237,1	2 304,9	2 264,6
GR	86,1	93,9	1,0	85,3	71,2
E	2 652,4	2 703,4	2 776,8	2 646,2	2 475,4
F	2 266,0	2 317,9	2 371,6	2 394,4	2 309,5
IRL	232,5	230,4	232,3	230,6	214,2
I	3 210,1	3 174,6	3 190,3	2 958,9	2 718,7
L	2,0	2,1	2,2	2,6	2,7
NL	687,2	685,8	697,9	761,0	822,4
P	371,7	372,9	373,8	342,0	299,6
UK	3 229,4	3 270,9	3 325,1	3 271,2	3 159,8
E 12	15 477	15 650	16 018	15 796	15 204

Télétel: SOMM.
Prestel: #Btx: #
TTY: /M/CR
20026222a

(B) Reuters

requires the use of the dedicated terminal

which all subscribers are provided with in order to allow them access to the Reuters network.

EC Eurostat consumer prices indices

ERSC

	MON		YR/YR	PREV	YR/YR	YR. TO. DATE
Belgium	Jun	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.1	0.3
Denmark	May	0.7	4.0	2.6	4.0	3.4
France	Jun	0.3	2.3	0.2	2.3	1.0
Germany (Fr)	Jun	0.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.2	-0.2
Greece	Jun	1.7	24.4	0.5	24.5	8.8
Ireland	Jun	1.2	4.4	1.2	4.4	2.8
Italy	Jun	0.9	6.8	0.4	6.4	3.3
Luxembourg	Jun	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	-1.3
Netherlands	May	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.2
United Kingdom	Jun	-0.1	2.5	0.2	2.8	1.8

1980 = 100

Reuter Monitor 1250

NEWS ITEMS

(C) Eurostatistics

is one of the ICG collections. This means that it is available on Cronos either from the

computer centre's ICL or from decentralized servers such as CISI-Wharton, Datacentralen and GSI-ECO.

A comparison of the availability of data between the publication and on-line consultation

Extract from Eurostatistics

ERZEUGUNG
NACH KATEGORIEN

PRODUCTION BY CATEGORY

PRODUCTION
PAR CATEGORIE

	EUR 12	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK	USA	JAP
--	--------	---	----	---	----	---	---	-----	---	---	----	---	----	-----	-----

0406 - GRUNDSTOFFE
UND PRODUKTIONSQUETER
SAISONBEREINIGT

INTERMEDIATE GOODS
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

BIENS INTERMEDIAIRES
DESAISONNALISE

EUR 12 = 100

1980 | 100,0 3,7 0,8 23,3 1,4 9,1 16,7 0,5 18,5 0,3 4,5 1,8 19,4

1980 = 100

1982 | 95,2 94,0 95,8
1983 | 96,6 95,5 101,8
1984 | 99,6 99,5 112,5
1985 | 101,8 101,2 114,6

1985 I | 100,3 99,6 107,3
II | 101,2 100,6 112,3
III | 102,0 101,5 117,7
IV | 102,3 102,4 119,6
1986 I | 102,3 105,2 116,6

1985 feb | 100,2 98,9 111,7
mar | 101,1 103,2 95,6
apr | 100,8 98,9 106,1
mai | 101,5 100,0 116,3
jun | 101,2 102,7 113,4
jul | 101,8 99,2 116,2
aug | 102,1 101,3 118,9
sep | 101,8 104,3 117,0
oct | 102,8 101,2 126,6
nov | 103,8 105,9 118,2
dec | 100,4 100,5 114,4
1986 jan | 102,2 102,4 123,6
feb | 103,3 103,4 117,8
mar | 101,5 108,2 109,1
apr | 105,0 136,4

On-line consultation screen

```

SEF *** CONT x x9304065 PTY 01 PER ***** 25. 9. 86
                                EUR 12    BELGIQUE    DANMARK
05. 85                        101,5          100,0          116,3
06. 85                        101,3          102,7          113,4
07. 85                        101,8           99,1          116,2
08. 85                        102,1          101,9          118,9
09. 85                        101,8          104,3          117,0
10. 85                        102,9          101,2          126,6
11. 85                        103,9          106,4          118,2
12. 85                        100,5          101,6          114,4
01. 86                        102,2          102,8          123,6
02. 86                        103,3          103,9          117,8
03. 86                        100,8          107,8          109,1
04. 86                        104,6*         103,2          134,8
05. 86                        100,5*         102,3          122,7
06. 86                        102,1*
07. 86
!!PROCEDURE=TABLE 3 / TABLE 1 MODE=A LIST=N
ERR=N / 19 PAGE=14/14
?? COMMANDE (PRE/NEXT/BACK/DIS/EXP/TRA/TAB/COM/
SUPP/CLO/HELP/+ )
    
```

III. Contents

Broadly speaking, these three new systems contain the main indicators which allow rapid analysis of the economies of Member States and of Europe and its leading competitors — Japan and the USA.

(A) *Ovide*

The following information is available in four languages:

- (a) Short-term statistics (updated around the 20th of each month):
1. *National accounts*

GDP

 1. Total/total GDP at market price
 2. Annual rates of variation
 3. Per capita GDP index
 4. Use of GDP

General government

 5. Income
 6. Expenditure
 2. *Employment*
 1. Activity rates
 2. Unemployment rates
 3. Female unemployment
 3. *Industrial production*

— Indices
 4. *External trade*
 1. Exports by partner country 1984
 2. Imports by partner country 1984
 3. Balance of trade 1986
 5. *Consumer prices*

— Consumer price index

— Annual rates of variation
 6. *Agriculture*
 1. Structure survey 1983
 2. Harvests 1985
 3. Harvests 1986
7. *Finance and exchange rates*
1. Exchange rates/ECU (average)
 2. Exchange rates/US \$
 3. Day-to-day money-market rates
 4. Money supply
 5. Public sector bond yields
8. *Balance of payments*
- Current account
- (b) Medium-term statistics (updated twice yearly in April and November, and, for certain variables such as national accounts and agricultural production, comprising DG II and Eurostat forecasts):
1. *ESA national accounts*

— GDP

 1. Volume changes
 2. Price changes

— Gross fixed capital formation

 3. Volume changes
 4. Price changes
 2. *Unemployment*
 1. Percentage of total active population
 2. Total
 3. Female
 4. Under 25s
 3. *Manufacturing production*
 1. All industries, seasonally adjusted
 2. Crude steel
 3. Annual variation
 4. *External trade*
 1. Cover ratio
 2. Total balance of trade (FOB/CIF)
 3. FOB by Member State/total
 4. EUR 10 by geographical zone/total excluding EEC

NEWS ITEMS

5. Consumer prices

1. General index
2. Annual variation
3. Monthly variation

6. Agricultural prices

— Agricultural products

7. Real long-term interest rates

8. Current-account balance of payment

9. Land area and population

Ovide

Agriculture crops 1986 — EUR 12 Prevision

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Rice	0,33	58,0	1,91	+ 3,2
Dried pulses	1,70	19,4	3,30	+ 6,8
Potatoes	1,49	265	39,49	- 8,3
Sugar beet	1,80	505	90,90	- 3,8
Tobacco	0,22	19,0	0,42	+ 2,4
Oil seeds	3,88	18,3	7,09	- 6,1
Rape	1,18	23,8	2,81	- 24,5
Sunflower seeds	2,05	15,0	3,08	+ 10,0
Others	0,65	18,5	1,20	+ 16,7
1: Area				Mio ha
2: Yield				100 kg/ha
3: Production				Mio t
4: Production				% 85/86

Téltel: SOMM.
Prestel: #

Btx: #
TTY:/M/CR

(B) Reuters

The first screen page (code = ERSA) shows current contents. The system is simple to use:

each page is identified by a four-character code and this is all that the user needs to enter in order to display that page. The only dialogue language currently available is English.

Eurostat-Statistical Office of the European Community ERSA index**

Tel: Luxembourg 4301 3220 Tx: Comeur Lu 3423

ERSB Key EC. data EUR 10
ERSC Consumer price indices
ERSD Industrial production
ERSE Industrial wages
ERSF Unemployment
ERSG Retail sales
ERSH Comments on ERSJ
ERSI Comments on ERSJ
ERSJ Industrial indicator

ERSK Trade balance total
ERSL 84/85 Crops
ERSM Price index E10 agri
ERSN Price index all agri
ERSO Price index crop prod
ERSP Price index animal
ERSQ Price index fruit/veg
ERSR-W Hydrocarbons
ERSX-Z General comments

Reuter Monitor 1250

EC Eurostat · Key economic data · EUR 10 sum all EC States ERSB

Units period	THIS	PREV	1 YR AGO
Consumer P.I. May	0.2	0.4	0.4
Wages-industry 285	103.2	102.4	102.0
Unemployment May	15 641	16 019	15 355
Unempl. rate % May	10.7	11.0	10.5
Retail sales Jun	99.6	103.4	96.9
Ind production Apr	107.3	103.1	101.7
Confid. indi. bal May	-7	-7	-6
Trade balance Dec	1 026	-961	-857

(C) Eurostatistics

The Eurostatistics collection comprises the entire contents of the printed version bearing the same name, plus the full series of indicators and all updates since publication of the most recent printed version.

Short-term trends

1. National accounts
2. Employment
3. Unemployment

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 4. Industrial production | 10. Consumer prices |
| 5. Opinions in industry | 11. Producer prices of agricultural products |
| 6. Industrial products | 12. Wages and salaries |
| 7. Retail sales | 13. Financial statistics |
| 8. Agricultural products | 14. Balance of payments |
| 9. External trade | |

Each time series is identified by a 9-digit code broken down into subcodes which, in the case of Eurostatistics, represent the country, the sector, the table, the unit and the periodicity.

XX	XX	XXXX	X
country	sector	Table	Unit and periodicity
		} 4-digit value quoted in the title of each table	

The significance of the various subcodes may be found in the table below:

Country	Sector	Table	Periodicity and unit	
02 EUR 12	93	XXXX 4-digit value quoted in the title of each table	0 annual	in %
03 EUR 10			1 quarterly	in %
12 D			2 monthly	in %
14 F			3 annual	index 1980 = 100
16 I			4 quarterly	index 1980 = 100
18 NL			5 monthly	index 1980 = 100
22 B			6 annual	absolute value
24 L			7 quarterly	absolute value
26 UK			8 monthly	absolute value
28 IRL			9 weighting	EUR 10 = 100 or EUR 12 = 100
30 DK				
32 E				
34 GR				
36 P				
42 USA				
46 JAP				

It is too early to draw any conclusions about these very recent developments. Initial reactions when they went on-line do nevertheless

suggest that the more selective, more specialized forms of dissemination which they offer is the right path for the future.

Survey on international tourism

S. Deroose¹

Introduction

The European Community has recently presented — 5 February 1986 — a memorandum on Community actions in the field of tourism. It is noted that a good apprehension of the problems encountered is impeded by statistical deficiencies. The existing statistics show gaps and are based on different definitions and compilation methods, which hamper, if not preclude, international and intertemporal comparisons.

The balance of payments' section at Eurostat have been carrying out research activities on international tourism for quite a time already. The first stage, focusing on an assessment of available data on international trade in tourism for the European Community, has been finished recently. The main results of the report are highlighted below.

Overall economic importance of tourism

International tourism is an economic activity of major significance within the European Community, albeit its economic significance is difficult to grasp with existing data bases. In many fields it is amalgamated with domestic tourism. But even the branch tourism is difficult to isolate from other economic activities, such as transportation. In short, information available on tourism in current data bases is fragmentary, incomplete and inaccurate, resulting in all probability in underestimated figures.

Despite all deficiencies Table 1 attempts to summarize some major elements establishing the economic significance of tourism.

Table 1: Indicators on economic significance of 'tourism' (average 1978—83)

	B	DK	D	GR	F	IRL	I	L	NL	UK	EUR 10
a.	2.9	1.1	1.3	NA	2.1	1.9	1.7	2.1	1.7	1.7	2.0
b.	4.0	3.9	3.7	1.3	1.4	4.3	0.7	—	4.1	2.0	2.5
c.	3.1	1.9	3.3	NA	2.7	NA	3.4	4.4	2.1	4.3	3.3
d.	1.2	NA	0.7	NA	1.6	NA	1.4	1.4	NA	1.5	NA

a = Gross value-added at market prices of 'Lodging and catering' as % of gross domestic product.

b = Expenditures on international tourism as % of national private consumption.

c = Employment in 'Lodging and catering' as % of total employment.

d = Gross fixed capital formation of 'Lodging and catering' as % of total gross fixed capital formation.

¹ S. Deroose is an administrator in the division 'Regional and financial statistics' of Eurostat.

From Table 1 it can be seen that:

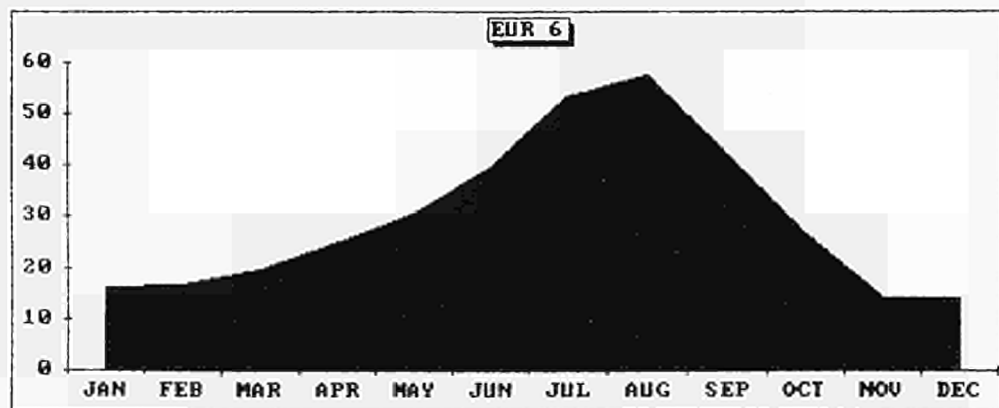
- (i) The branch 'Lodging and catering' represents 2% of gross domestic product in EUR 10. This share remains very stable over time. The countries in which the figures differ most widely from the Community average are on the one hand Belgium with 2.9% and on the other hand Denmark (1.1%) and Germany (1.3%);
- (ii) On average 3.3% of total employment is localized in 'Lodging and catering'. Furthest remote from the Community average are the UK with 4.3% and Denmark with 4.9%. Comparison of employment with value-added does presume a relative low labour productivity, differing widely from country to country however;
- (iii) statistics on gross fixed capital formation are rather scarce. Available figures reveal rather low shares;

- (iv) expenditures on international tourism constitute a relatively important part of total national private consumption with 2.5%. France, Ireland and Italy are the countries in which tourist expenditures are modest relative to private final consumption; they are highest in Ireland. In contrast with other indicators, which seems to be very stable, the share of tourist expenditures shows a significant increase over the period 1978—82, but drops in 1983, indicating a faster growth than other consumer expenditures.

Seasonal pattern of tourist activity

One of the most critical problems encountered in tourist activity is the strength of the seasonal pattern. Two sets of data are available to assess this phenomenon: monthly statistics on nights spent in hotel accommodation and quarterly travel receipts and expenditures. Graph 1, representing EUR 6 figures on nights spent, is endowed with a typical skew bell shape.

Graph 1: Nights spent in hotel accommodation (average 1978—84, in millions)



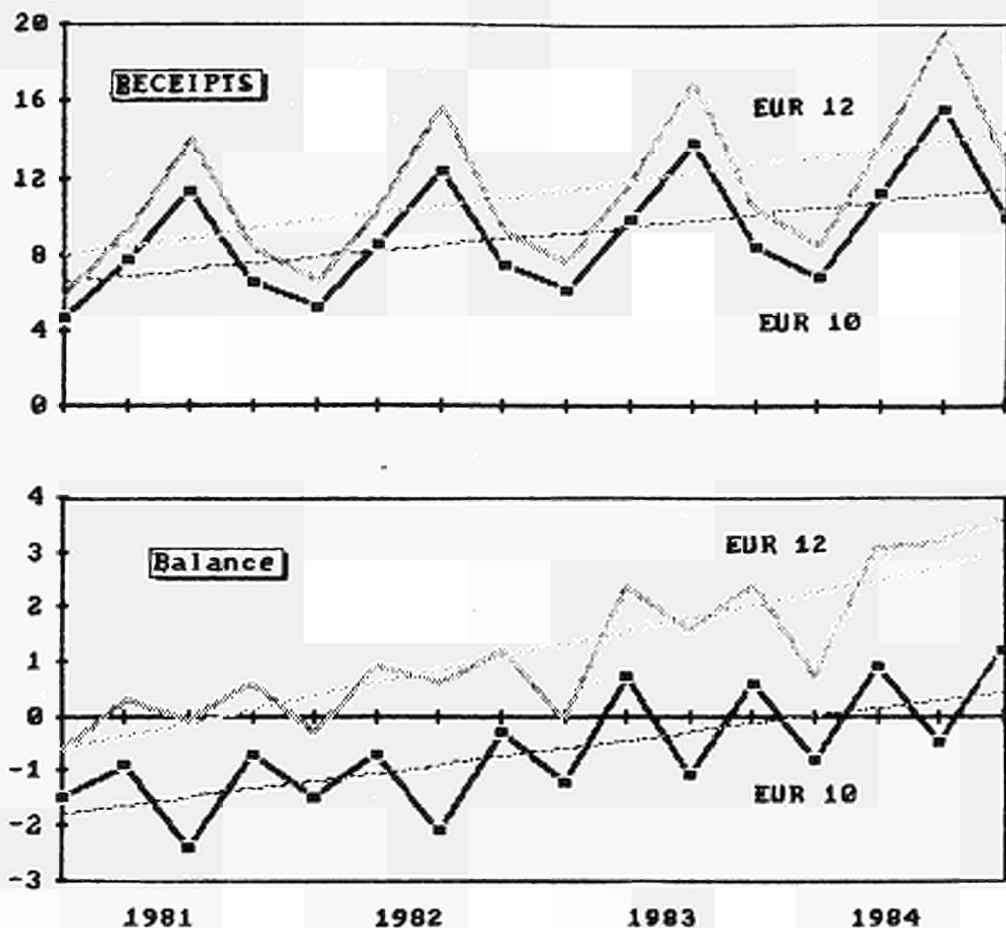
The seasonal dispersion of nights spent is also strongly pointed out by the coefficient of variation. Where the coefficient tends to zero in the case of a regular distribution, it reaches an average of 49.6% over the period 1980—84. Extreme coefficients are found for

Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium with around 38% and for Greece with 71%. It is a pity that France, the UK, Ireland and Luxembourg do not compile these tell-tale statistics.

The same phenomenon is outlined in Graph 2 based on quarterly travel data. The graph reveals in the case of receipts (the same is true for expenditures) a very smooth seasonal pat-

tern, which takes off in the second quarter of the year, attaining its top value during summer and reaches its floor level in winter.

Graph 2: Travel receipts and balance (in thousand million ECU)



Apart from the seasonal pattern, Graph 2 also outlines another particular characteristic of tourism in EUR 10. Traditionally the EUR 10 travel account is in deficit, although it gradually tends to equilibrium to become positive for the first time in 1984. Not surprisingly EUR 12 would record a much sounder travel balance.

Both graphs show that the Community in its memorandum does not unjustly recommend a smoother distribution of school and business holidays. The widely varying occupation (over saturation in summer, large underutilization in winter) is disadvantageous for tourists as well as for producers.

Importance of travel in international trade

As may be seen from Table 2 travel occupies a prominent position in international trans-

actions in tradable services. From 1973 to 1984 total exports of the Community amount to 20% on average, whilst imports to 25%. This corresponds respectively with 4.5% and 5.1% of total exports and imports of goods and services.

Table 2: Relative importance of TRAVEL in international transactions of tradable services (%)

		BLEU	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	NL	P	UK	EUR 10	EUR 12	USA	JA-PAN
exports	1973	16.8	25.1	27.8	51.2	68.5	17.0	53.8	42.3	15.9	62.6	14.4	22.2	26.5	24.3	4.0
	1984	16.5	25.3	21.7	48.5	62.3	14.8	41.5	43.9	11.0	55.9	21.1	21.6	24.9	28.0	4.6
	AVG 1973—84	13.6	23.6	22.0	45.5	63.5	13.4	45.9	42.6	11.1	55.0	18.8	19.9	22.9	27.9	3.6
imports	1973	30.3	30.2	42.3	21.3	20.1	18.7	42.8	18.5	23.5	36.6	17.3	27.2	27.1	40.5	12.9
	1984	19.3	28.1	38.8	27.8	16.8	10.2	35.0	14.1	22.4	19.2	29.6	23.1	22.9	38.8	13.2
	AVG 1973—84	24.0	30.6	41.2	23.6	18.4	12.9	38.8	12.8	24.7	24.1	21.9	25.0	24.2	37.7	12.8

Tradable services have been calculated as the sum of the balances of payments items, 'Transport', 'Insurance on transport', 'Travel' and 'Other service'.

Surprisingly, perhaps, travel exports are of most importance in Ireland (45.9% but decreasing rapidly), closely followed by Greece (45.5%) and Italy (42.6%). They are of least importance in the Netherlands (11.1%). In the enlarged Community travel exports will be most prominent in Spain and Portugal. The share of travel imports, on the contrary, is highest in Germany (41.2%) and lowest in France (12.9%) and Italy (12.8%).

From 1973 to 1984 the relative importance of both travel exports and imports dropped markedly in all Member States, except the UK and Italy (exports) and Greece (imports). Apart from any structural reason (viz. the upsurge of trade in other services), the decline is probably accounted for by the choice of the starting year, 1973, marking a booming overall economic situation in EUR 10.

Extra-EUR 10 travel balance

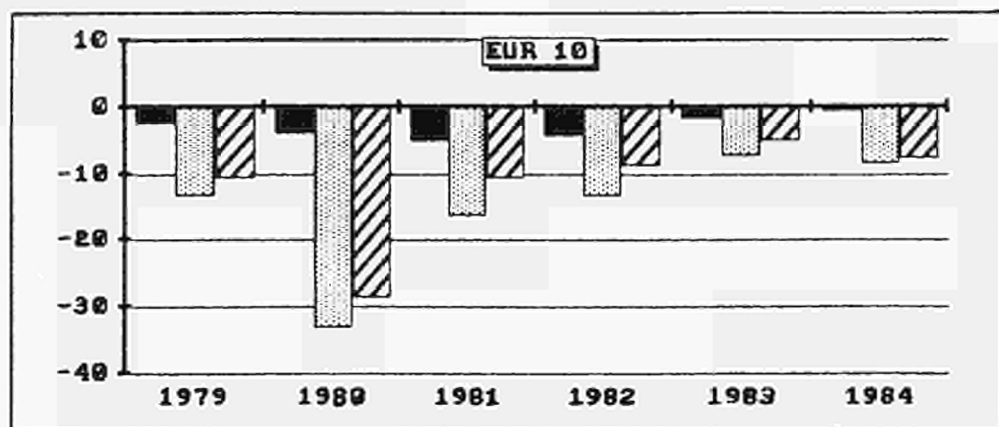
The extra-EUR 10 travel account (representing around 50% of total travel) is characterized by pronounced deficits throughout the 1970s and the early 1980s. The net import position peaked in 1981 and declined from then to reach virtually equilibrium in 1984. Therefore, the tourist account has had a destabilizing impact on the extra-EUR 10 balance of payments, by enhancing the deficit as may be seen from Graph 3.

This overall picture hides, however, very substantial differences among the Member States. This is highlighted in Table 3, which shows the contribution of the individual Member States to extra-EUR 10 travel balance, using the formula:

$$\text{contribution} = \left[\frac{C_i - D_i}{C_i + D_i} - \frac{C_{eur} - D_{eur}}{C_{eur} + D_{eur}} \right] \times \left[\frac{C_i + D_i}{C_{eur} + D_{eur}} \right]$$

with C = travel receipts
 D = travel expenditures
 i = Member States
 eur = EUR 10

Graph 3: Extra-EUR 10 travel balance



- Travel balance (thousand million ECU)
- ▨ Current balance (thousand million ECU)
- ▩ Current balance excluding travel (thousand million ECU)

It is shown that Germany, the Netherlands and the BLEU are in deficit on their tourism accounts, hence contributing negatively to the EUR 10 external travel balance. The large percentages of -14.4% and -12.7% clearly show the preponderant weight of Germany, amounting to almost one half of the deficit.

Italy, France and the UK make a positive contribution. Since extra-Community travel expenditure in Spain, and to a lesser extent in Portugal, accounts for the major part of the deficit, the external travel account will record a surplus from 1985 onward.

Table 3: Contribution of Member States to extra-EUR 10 travel balance (%)

	BLEU	DK	D	GR	F	IRL	I	NL	UK
1979	-1.5	0.1	-14.4	2.4	4.3	0.2	7.0	-7.0	5.9
1984	-0.6	0.2	-12.7	1.4	6.2	0.1	6.4	-2.2	1.2

Pending sore subjects and approaches considered

Data deficiencies as mentioned above are taken very seriously at Eurostat. The staff's work is concentrated on two specific topics:

* *Bilateral balances and asymmetries*

For the European Community it is of para-

mount importance to know intra-EUR 10 trade flows, permitting the calculation of an EUR 10 total. The figures supplied by the member countries reveal, however, large discrepancies. In principle, credit flows declared by A with B, should equal declared debit flows of B with A (and vice versa). Table 4 below shows that actually this is far from being the case for travel.

Table 4: Asymmetries in EUR 10 travel account*(in million ECU)*

	Credit	Debit	Net	Relative Asymmetry
1978	10 563	11 131	- 568	- 5.2 %
1979	12 252	13 051	- 799	- 6.3 %
1980	14 142	15 023	- 881	- 6.0 %
1981	15 112	15 339	- 227	- 1.5 %
1982	16 557	16 517	41	0.2 %
1983	17 798	17 227	571	3.3 %

By means of methodological and quantitative analyses Eurostat has been trying to reduce these asymmetries. There are encouraging signs that both approaches will bear fruit in the rather near future.

** Elaboration of a satellite account of tourism*

Eurostat is aware of the lack of reliability and harmonization of statistics on tourism. In order to assess the feasibility of a more har-

monized system of travel statistics, the staff considers *inter alia* to proceed to the elaboration of a data bank recording a rather exhaustive set of information. More concretely, the pursuit of methodological studies amounting to a satellite account are in progress. This implies that the accuracy and the completeness of travel statistics will be tested and improved, perhaps, by confronting them with a systematic amalgamation (a satellite account) of other sources such as statistics on nights spent, arrivals at frontiers, pattern of holidays, ...

Parliamentary questions

**Written question No 1088/85
by Mr Willy Kuijpers (ARC—B)
to the Commission of the European
Communities**

(3 September 1985)

(86/C 23/11)

Subject: Steel production in the Community

Can the Commission provide figures on steel production per Member State for the years 1980 to 1985 inclusive?

Can it also provide figures on the maximum level of production proposed by the Commission for these years?

**Answer given by Mr Narjes
on behalf of the Commission**

(29 October 1985)

The crude steel production figures for each Member State for 1980 to 1985 (first six months) are set out for the honourable Member in the table below.

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Crude steel production

(in million tonnes)

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985 (first six months)
Germany	43.8	41.6	35.9	35.7	39.4	20.5
France	23.2	21.2	18.4	17.6	18.8	9.9
Italy	26.5	24.8	24.0	21.8	24.1	12.3
Netherlands	5.3	5.5	4.4	4.5	5.7	2.7
Belgium	12.3	12.3	10.0	10.2	11.3	5.5
Luxembourg	4.6	3.8	3.5	3.3	4.0	2.0
United Kingdom	11.3	15.3	13.7	15.0	15.2	8.2
Ireland	0.0	0.03	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Denmark	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.2
Greece	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	—
EUR 9	127.7	125.1	110.5	108.7	119.2	61.5
EUR 10	128.6	126.1	111.4	109.5	120.1	—

As for the quota (maximum authorized production) system, the rules based on Article 58 of the ECSC Treaty require the Commission to fix quotas for each undertaking. At the same time all general decisions¹ adopted under Article 58 include an article which lays down that:

‘For the purposes of this Decision any group of concentrated undertakings within the meaning of Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty shall be regarded as a single undertaking even if such undertakings are located in different Member States.’

Consequently, quotas allocated to a specific undertaking in a given Member State may well include production quotas for certain plant in other Member States.

Obviously it is for the management to apportion the undertaking's quotas among its production units in the light of its commercial and industrial strategy.

This, and the confidential nature of such information, makes it impossible to give the honourable Member fuller details.

¹ Article 1 (3) of Decision No 2794/80/ECSC of 31 October 1980 (OJ L 291, 31.10.1980); Article 2 (4) of Decision No 1831/81/ECSC of 26 June 1981 (OJ L 180, 1.7.1981); Article 2 (4) of Decision No 1696/82/ECSC of 30 June 1982 (OJ L 191, 1.7.1982); Article 2 (4) of Decision No 2177/83/ECSC of 28 July 1983 (OJ L 208, 31.7.1983); Article 2 (4) of Decision No 234/84/ECSC of 31 January 1984 (OJ L 29, 1.2.1984).

Written question No 1966/85
by Mr François Roelants du Vivier (ARC—B)
to the Commission of the European
Communities

(13 November 1985)

(86/C 87/40)

Subject: Level of dependence on raw materials of plant origin

In its reply to Written Question No 2329/84 by Mr Jens-Peter Bonde,¹ the Commission provides a table showing the level of dependence of the Community, the United States and Japan on imports of non-energy raw materials and minerals.

Will it provide a similar table for raw materials of plant origin?

¹ OJ C 228, 9. 9. 1985, p. 14.

Answer given by Mr Pfeiffer
on behalf of the Commission

(13 December 1985)

Statistics are given below concerning the level of dependence of the European Community, the United States and Japan on raw materials of plant origin.

Comparable figures are available for the main plant products or groups of plant products as food for human consumption.

Level of dependence¹

Products		Level of dependence ¹		
		EEC ²	United States ³	Japan ³
Cereals (total)	1977	18	—63	98
	1982	— 6	—81	95
Pulses	1977	46	—17	53
	1982	31	—70	58
White sugar	1977	— 4	53	83
	1982	— 54	37	72
Potatoes	1977	6	— 8	3
	1982	— 1	— 7	5
Vegetables (fresh)	1977	8	—	2
	1982	— 1	—	4
Fresh fruit	1977	22	12	16
	1982	18	11	21
Nuts	1977	48	—46	:
	1982	31	—34	:
Citrus fruit	1977	56	— 7	:
	1982	54	— 7	:
Vegetables oils	1977	83	—60	16
	1982	64	—75*	18
Wine	1977	— 2	:	:
	1982	6	:	:

¹ $100 - (\text{Production/Total utilization}) \times 100$.

² Eurostat — Supply balances — Cronos. 1977 = 1976/77 with EEC at 9; 1982 = 1981/82 with EEC at 10.

³ OECD = Statistics on consumption of food products.

* Estimate.

: Not available.

Written question No 1919/85
by Mr. Willy Vernimmen (S—B)
to the Commission of the European
Communities

(5 November 1985)

(86/C 126/22)

Subject: Future of the European footwear industry

It is quite clear that at present all is not plain sailing for the European footwear industry. It

is coming under heavy attack on its own market and at the same time exports are faltering.

The situation would therefore seem to call for a thorough study of what is happening in this sector as it is an important part of the economy of many European countries and has considerable prospects as regards employment and redevelopment.

1. What is the situation in the footwear industry throughout the Community and

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in each of the Member States by region and district?

2. Does the Commission not take the view that the European footwear industry is threatened by unfair trading conditions?
3. Does the Commission not consider that it is time to take action in this area, so that undertakings can take up the challenge of their international competitors fairly and with the same weapons?
4. Can the Commission therefore indicate how it views the future of the footwear industry and whether it intends to make a statement on this matter?

Answer given by Lord Cockfield on behalf of the Commission

(19 February 1986)

The Commission agrees with the honourable Member that the footwear industry is an important one with further scope for employment and innovation. Like most industries producing consumer goods it has been affected by the recession but Community pro-

duction and exports increased last year in total terms. Imports also rose but the Community is still a net exporter to the value of 703 million ECU.

1. The data available on the Community and Member States are set out in the table. The Commission has no figures for regions and subregions.
2. Means of providing a commercial defence against unfair import practices are available to any Community industry with a well-documented complaint.
3. The Commission's policy is to secure maximum openness in world trade in this and other fields. It is, for example, taking specific action with regard to the United States, Canada and Japan.
4. The future of the footwear industry is the responsibility of the economic operators who take the necessary decisions regarding investment, adoption of new technologies, training, etc., while the Commission tries to keep the economic environment as favourable as possible.

Employment

	Total workforce ¹	No of firms ¹	Production ('000 pairs) ¹	Imports ('000 pairs) ²	Exports ('000 pairs) ²
Germany	46 663	271	92 199	97 962	15 758
France	53 883	408	201 809	74 012	24 668
Italy	134 317	9 549	496 198	46 192	146 846
Netherlands	3 770	119	9 700	33 405	1 127
Belgium	2 139	74	6 007	13 086	519
United Kingdom	50 000	494	127 384	102 789	6 126
Ireland	1 675	24	5 430	4 392	534
Denmark	2 110	38	7 351	10 295	3 701
Greece	not available	not available	17 800	2 009	3 818
EUR 10	294 557	10 977	959 618	384 084	203 100

¹ Source: European Confederation of the Footwear Industry.

² Source: EEC Statistics.

Principal purchasing countries for European footwear in 1984

	(million ECU)
USA	1 106
Switzerland	229
Austria	246
Sweden	144
Canada	130
Norway	78
USSR	76
Saudi Arabia	74
Total, non-EEC	2 738

Source: EEC Statistics.

Principal sources of exports to Europe in 1984

	(million ECU)
Spain	386
Taiwan	294
Austria	195
South Korea	184
Portugal	173
Yugoslavia	155
Brazil	78
China	76
Switzerland	74
Hong-Kong	64
Total, non-EEC	2 035

Source: EEC Statistics.

**Written question No 1688/85
by Mr Raphaël Chanterie (PPE—B)
to the Commission of the European
Communities**

(7 September 1985)

(86/C 87/20)

Subject: Comparable long-term unemployment statistics

At present there are no comparable statistics

for long-term unemployment. Moreover the Member States do not use uniform criteria.

Are any proposals currently being drawn up to solve this problem?

**Answer given by Mr Pfeiffer
on behalf of the Commission**

(6 December 1985)

In its communication to the Council on action to combat long-term unemployment,¹ the Commission pointed out the lack of comparability of statistics on long-term unemployment in the Community, together with the lack of a clear or universally accepted definition of long-term unemployment. In the communication the Commission therefore put forward a number of proposals to overcome the problem. In the subsequent Council resolution of 19 December 1984² Member States were requested to undertake and/or pursue coordinated analyses designed to provide comprehensive data on long-term unemployment in order to gain an increased awareness of the characteristics of the situation of the long-term unemployed.

As a follow-up to this Council resolution, the Statistical Office of the European Communities has initiated discussions on comparable statistics on long-term unemployment in one of its working parties with a view to finding a solution. One proposal under examination is to use the concept of the length of time taken in seeking a job, as used in the Community labour force sample surveys, as a measure of the duration of unemployment.

The Community's labour force sample surveys are carried out on the basis of uniform definitions and coding in all the Member States. Comparability of the results of the surveys between Member States is then assured.

¹ Doc. COM(84) 484 final.

² Council resolution of 19 December 1984 on action to combat long term unemployment — OJ C 2, 4.1.1985, p. 3.

PUBLICATIONS

Published

Theme 1

EUROSTAT REVIEW 1975-1984

ISBN 92-825-5959-9 (EN/FR/NL), ISBN 92-825-5960-2 (DA/DE/IT)

Format A4, 241 pages, price BFR 700

Time series of the principal statistical domains covered by Eurostat. The work is divided into seven sections: 1. General statistics; 2. National accounts, finance and balance of payments; 3. Population and social conditions; 4. Energy and industry; 5. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries; 6. Foreign trade; 7. Services and transport.

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- (iv) economic aggregates,
- (v) the main series on the different sectors of the economy: agriculture, industry, energy and the services sector,
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<p>Theme 2</p>

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Format A4, 246 pages, price BFR 1 200

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Theme 3

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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. A supplementary chapter has been 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.

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ISSN 0254-9050 (DE/EN/FR/IT)

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

ISSN 0250-5967 (EN/FR)

Format A4, approximately 210 or 120 pages respectively, price BFR 1 300 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 last 13 months for EUR 10 and each of those ten Member States. The agricultural price indices for Spain are not expected to be included until 1987, whilst it is not yet possible to foresee when data will be available for Portugal. In order to eliminate the effect of different rates of inflation in the Community, the nominal agricultural price indices are deflated using the consumer price index. The publication will contain both nominal and deflated price indices. Each price index is the result of a base-weighted (Laspeyres) calculation using value weights determined for the base year 1980 for a fixed basket of agricultural products (output index) and a selection of goods and services (input index). 1980 also serves as the reference year. No 1/1986 of this publication shows in addition the trend of the annual price indices from 1975 to 1985. A brief commentary on the most recent developments, various summaries containing rates of change and a number of diagrams can be found before the index tables. A weighting scheme by country and product is also included.

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ISBN 92-825-6363-4 (EN), ISBN 92-825-6364-2 (FR)

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