

United Nations Statistical Commission

1947 - 2007



Forging global cooperation in statistics
Professionalism, independence and participation of all countries



Tools of the trade
International standard classifications and definitions, and programme guidelines



Taking the pulse of globalization
Continuous dissemination of comparable international statistics since 1921



Facts vs. perceptions
What gets measured is what gets done!



Strengthening statistical capacity in countries

The League of Nations

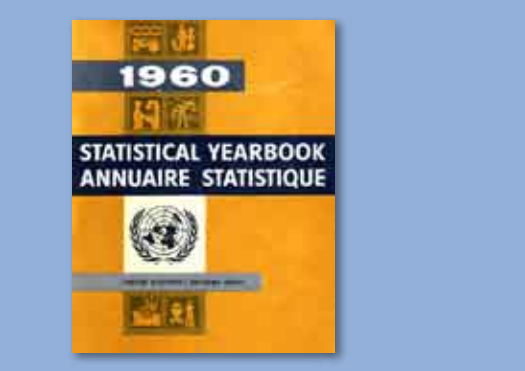
- 1920 International Statistical Commission convened by the League of Nations in Paris, 11 October
- 1928 International Convention relating to economic statistics, signed at Geneva, 14 December
- 1931-1939 Eight meetings of the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts

United Nations, the first ten years

- 1946 First ("Nuclear") session of the Statistical Commission, Hunter College, New York, 1-15 May
- 1947 First (regular) session of the Statistical Commission, Lake Success, New York, 27 January-7 February

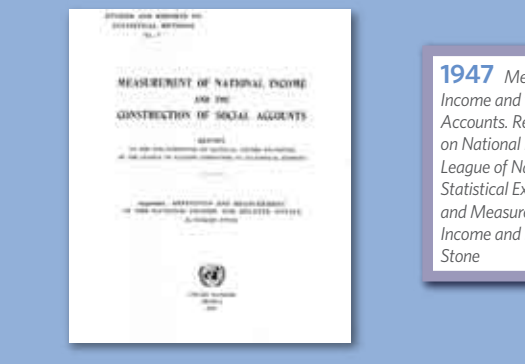
Three decades of statistical development and innovation

- 1951 First directory of international statistics. *List of Statistical Series Collected by International Organizations*
- 1966 First Inter-agency Meeting on Statistical Activities, Geneva from 11 to 14 July. Now the Coordinating Committee on Statistical Activities (CCSA), meeting annually
- 1975 Revised *Directory of International Statistics*. Comprised listings and explanations of international statistical services, series, standards, and computerized international statistics



The information revolution and globalization of development

- 1985 Formation of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), meeting twice annually
- 1994 Special session, held in New York 11-14 April. Adopted the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and reviewed technical cooperation in statistics and implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts
- 1999 Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/8, Functioning of the Statistical Commission, decided that the Commission should meet annually
- 2006 United Nations Project 21 awards for outstanding staff initiatives for the Comtrade Database on Internet and Millennium Development Goals Indicators project
- 2007 Sixtieth anniversary of the Statistical Commission. Thirty-eighth session, New York 27 February-2 March



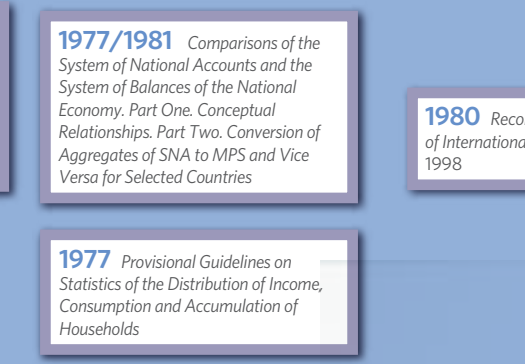
- 1947 *Measurement of National Income and the Construction of National Accounts. Report of the Sub-committee on National Income Statistics of the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts. Appendix: Definition and Measurement of the National Income and Related Totals.* By Richard Stone
- 1949 *The Preparation of Sampling Survey Reports.* Prepared by Prof. G. Darmonis, W. E. Deming, Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis, F. Yates and Prof. R. A. Fisher. Revised versions issued in 1950 and 1964
- 1949 *First International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC).* Latest update in 2003 and revision 4 to be published in 2007

- 1950 *Standard International Trade Classification (SITC).* The latest revision was issued in 2006, Rev. 4
- 1953 *A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables.* Revised in 1960 and 1964. Completely new versions issued in 1968 and 1993 (Rev. 1 - Rev. 4). A new update is in preparation
- 1953 *Principles for a Vital Statistics System - Recommendations for the Improvement and Standardization of Vital Statistics.* Revised in 1973 and 2001

- 1958 *Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses and General Principles for a Housing Census.* Revised in 1967, 1980 and 1998
- 1962 *Statistical Indicators of Housing Conditions*
- 1960 *A Short Manual on Sampling, Vol. I, Elements of Sample Survey Theory.* Revised version in 1972, Rev. 1
- 1964 *Handbook of household surveys: A practical guide for inquiries on levels of living.* Revised edition issued in 1984.

- 1970 *International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions.* Revision 1 was issued in 1982. Revision 2 was issued in 1998 as *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions*
- 1974 *Towards a System of Social and Demographic Statistics*
- 1974 *Formation of the Expert Group on Harmonization of Statistical Classifications*
- 1974 *International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions.* Revision 1 was issued in 1982. Revision 2 was issued in 1998 as *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions*

- 1975 *A System of International Comparisons of Gross Product and Purchasing Power.* By Irving G. Kravis et al. for the United Nations Statistical Office, World Bank and International Comparison Unit of the University of Pennsylvania
- 1977/1981 *Comparisons of the System of National Accounts and the System of Balances of the National Economy. Part One. Conceptual Relationships. Part Two. Conversion of Aggregates of SNA to MPS and Vice Versa for Selected Countries*
- 1977 *Provisional Guidelines on Statistics of the Distribution of Income, Consumption and Accumulation of Households*



- 1980 *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revised in 1998*
- 1984 *Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics*
- 1989 *Handbook on Social Indicators*
- 1987 *Energy Statistics: Definitions, Units of Measure and Conversion Factors*
- 1992 *Handbook of the International Comparison Programme*
- 1993 *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts - Interim Version.* Final version to be issued in 2007
- 2002 *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*

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- 2002 *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*



- 1991 *Provisional Central Product Classification (CPC), Final version 1.0 issued in 1998 and revised in 2003 (Version 1.1)*
- 1992 *Handbook of the International Comparison Programme*
- 1993 *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts - Interim Version.* Final version to be issued in 2007
- 2002 *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*

- 2005 *Household Surveys in Developing and Transition Countries*
- 2007 *Handbook on Poverty Statistics: Concepts, Methods and Policy Use (forthcoming)*
- 2007 *Designing Household Survey Samples: Practical Guidelines (forthcoming)*

- 1919 *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics.* Published by the Supreme Economic Council of the Allied and Associated Powers until 1921, then by the League of Nations to mid-1946 and subsequently by the United Nations
- 1927 *International Statistical Yearbook.* Published by the League of Nations until 1945
- 1934 *League of Nations International Trade Statistics* (annual until 1944)
- 1948 *National Income Statistics of Various Countries, 1938-1947*
- 1948 *First issue of the United Nations Statistical Yearbook*

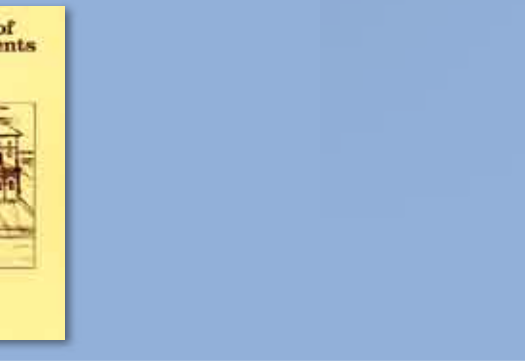
- 1949 *First Demographic Yearbook*
- 1949 *First issue of Population and Vital Statistics Report. Series A* (quarterly; biannually from 2004)
- 1951 *First United Nations Yearbook of International Trade Statistics*
- 1951 *Statistics of National Income and Expenditure.* Became the *Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics* with the 1957 issue published in two volumes. Individual Country Data and International Tables
- 1952 *First issue of World Energy Supplies (annual).* Covered selected years, 1929-1950. From 1979, *Yearbook of World Energy Statistics;* from 1983, *Energy Statistics Yearbook*

- 1960 *Patterns of Industrial Growth 1938-1958*
- 1965 *The Growth of World Industry 1938-1961 - International Analyses and Tables*
- 1965 *Installation at the International Computing Centre, Geneva, of the first United Nations mainframe computer (an IBM 7044/1401), for trade statistics processing*
- 1968 *First issue of Industrial Commodities Statistics Yearbook*
- 1974 *First Compendium of Housing Statistics.* In 1985 became the *Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics*

- 1963 *Compendium of Social Statistics 1963* (quinquennial until 1991)
- 1970 *General Assembly resolution 2626(XXV), International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade*
- 1971 *ECOSOC resolution 1566(L), Co-ordination of work in the field of statistics*
- 1976 *World Statistics in Brief* (annual)



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- 1983 *Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles* (biennial)
- 1987 *The two volumes of the National Accounts Yearbook were renamed National Accounts Statistics, Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables and National Accounts Statistics, Analysis of Main Aggregates*
- 1985 *First Statistics Division publication prepared entirely on PC. Statistical Indicators on Youth*
- 1987 *The two volumes of the National Accounts Yearbook were renamed National Accounts Statistics, Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables and National Accounts Statistics, Analysis of Main Aggregates*
- 1992 *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics Online*
- 1993 *First Statistical Yearbook on CD-ROM*
- 1999 *United Nations Common Database on Internet (UNCDB)*
- 2000 *Fiftieth issue of the Demographic Yearbook*
- 2000 *Demographic Yearbook Historical Supplement 1948-1997, CD-ROM*
- 2004 *National Accounts Main Aggregates Database accessible on Internet*
- 2005 *Full United Nations Comtrade database accessible on Internet*
- 2005 *Pilot release on Internet of United Nations International Trade in Services Database*
- 2006 *Statistical Yearbook fiftieth edition*

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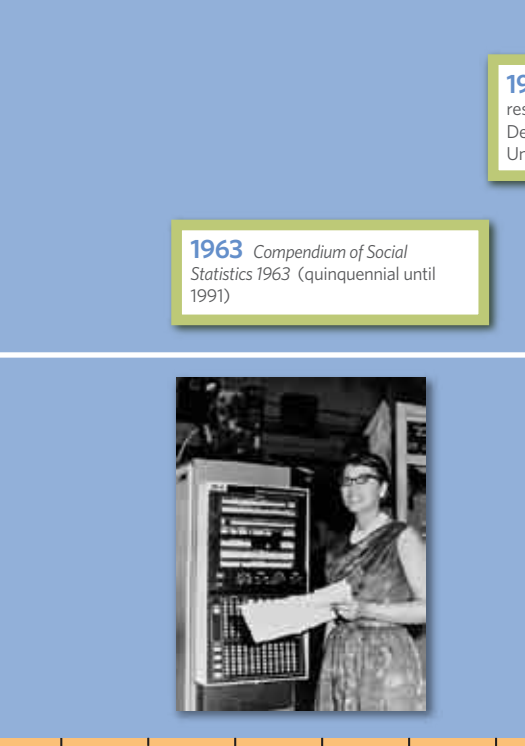
- 1991 *The World's Women, Trends and Statistics* (quinquennial)
- 1996 *Statistics and Indicators on Women and Men Web site launched on Internet*
- 1996 *Social Indicators Website launched on Internet*
- 2000 *ECOSOC resolution 2000/27, Basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels*
- 2003 *Indicators for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals - Definitions, Rationale, Concepts and Sources*
- 2003 *Millennium Indicators Database launched on Internet*
- 2003 *General Assembly resolution 57/270B, Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields*
- 2005 *The Millennium Development Goals Report* (annual)
- 2003 *First regional Training Workshop on Data and Indicators to Monitor Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals, Nairobi 22-26 September. Proceedings (CD-ROM), United Nations Statistics Division and African Population and Health Research Centre*
- 1999 *"Practical guidelines for good practices in technical cooperation for statisticians" endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its 30th session (E/CN.3/1999/19)*
- 1994 *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the Statistical Commission at its Special Session*
- 2003 *First regional Training Workshop on Data and Indicators to Monitor Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals, Nairobi 22-26 September. Proceedings (CD-ROM), United Nations Statistics Division and African Population and Health Research Centre*
- 2006 *ECOSOC resolution 2006/6, Strengthening statistical capacity*

Sixty years of leadership and professionalism in building the global statistical system

The United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has prepared this flyer in February 2007, on the occasion of the 38th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, marking the 60th anniversary of the Commission's existence. The flyer presents the Commission's achievements in form of a timeline of historical highlights and milestones, focusing on the five major themes of the Commission's work. A more detailed description can be found in the brochure entitled "United Nations Statistical Commission, Sixty years of leadership and professionalism in building the global statistical system".

In order to view a copy of the brochure in PDF Format, and to obtain additional background information on the United Nations Statistical Commission, see the Commission home page at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission.htm> and the Statistics Division Web site at <http://unstats.un.org>. To receive additional copies of the present flyer or the brochure, contact the Statistics Division, United Nations, New York 10017, e-mail statistics@un.org. Copyright © United Nations, New York, 2007

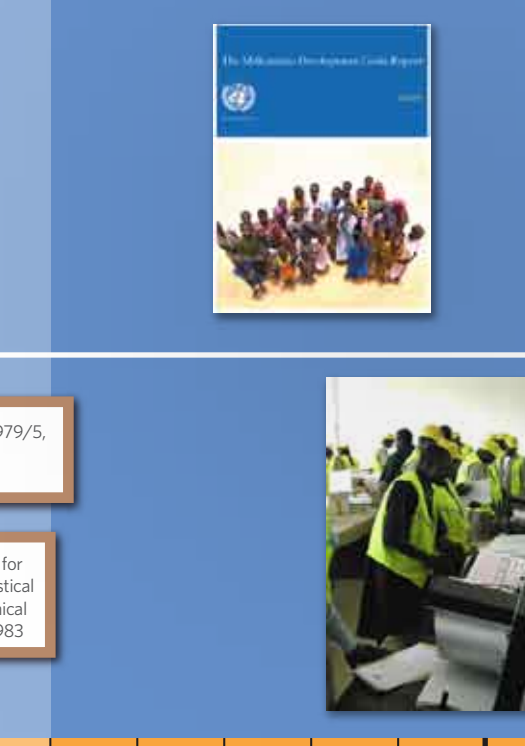
- 1953 *Memorandum of the Secretary-General for the Statistical Commission at its seventh session, "Assistance in implementation of recommendations and improvement of national statistics". Part IV and annex tables*
- 1973 *Interregional Seminar on Statistical Organization. Report and Proceedings of the United Nations Interregional Seminar on Statistical Organization (Ottawa, mimeo.)*
- 1976 *ECOSOC resolution 2055 (LXII), National Household Capability Programme*
- 1977 *The Organization of National Statistical Services - A Review of Major Issues. Revised and expanded versions issued as Handbook of Statistical Organization - A Study of the Organization of National Statistical Services in 1982 and Handbook of Statistical Organization, Third Edition: The Operation and Organization of a Statistical Agency in 2003*
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