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### Change in Publication Schedule

Please note that starting with the next issue (July 2002), the publication schedule of *The Survey Statistician* will change slightly.

The newsletter will come out in **January and July** of each year.

# Letter from the President

I would like to open this "Message from the President" by thanking IASS members for choosing me 2 years ago to represent them from 2001 to 2003. You bestowed on me a great honor and a heavy responsibility when you entrusted me with the leadership of an organization that numbers over a thousand members worldwide. I hope I will be able to live up to your expectations and the legacy of my predecessors. I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I appreciate their work, especially Kirk Wolter, with whom I, as President-Elect, covered IASS issues throughout the past 2 years and who leaves the IASS in great shape. For my part, I intend to continue development, promoting, among other things, IASS publications and the conferences and seminars the Association organizes or supports.

I would also like to thank everyone, be they Board members, committee chairs, or IASS notables currently without official function, who so generously supported and advised me at the Seoul ISI Session. The support and advice were especially welcome since I had to replace, at very short notice, Kirk Wolter, who had had an accident and was unable to attend. I hope that, by the time he reads this, he will have fully recovered.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat for handling the administrative and financial side of things. As you know, we were having problems with our membership list, which was outdated and causing problems. Thanks to the efforts of the Executive Director and the Secretariat, we now have an updated membership list, a fact that was hailed by the ISI Board at the Seoul meeting.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the institutions without whose support the IASS could not exist – for example, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which prints and distributes the English version of **The Survey Statistician**, session proceedings, and some special publications; INSEE, which provides

Secretariat services and prints and distributes the French version of **The Survey Statistician** as well as the membership list; and Statistics Canada, which provides translation services. I must not overlook the United Nations Statistics Division: by giving grants to statisticians from developing countries, they contribute to the success of our now-traditional short courses that are held just before the ISI Sessions.

Let us now turn to the future. First, let me congratulate and welcome the members of the **new IASS Board** that was elected in spring 2001:

- ◆ President-Elect: Luigi Biggeri (Italy)
- ◆ Vice-Presidents: David Binder (Canada) and Anders Christianson (Sweden)
- ◆ Scientific Secretary: Seppo Laaksonen (Finland)
- ◆ 2001-2005 Board Members: Kari Djerf (Finland), David Fitch (USA-Guatemala), Lidija Gligorova (Croatia), Huang Langhui (China), Mosche Sicron (Israel), Awa Thiongane (Senegal). They join members who were elected in 1999, whose term ends in 2003: Florentina Alvarez (Spain), Cynthia Clark (USA), Jean Martin (UK), Vidalis E. Muba (Tanzania), Pedro-Luis Do Nascimento Silva (Brazil), Bhagwandas Tikkiwal (India).

I have no doubt in my mind that, together, we will make the IASS even stronger and more effective.

Along with the Board, various **Committees**, some statutory, some not, are at the core of IASS activities. The Board and I have appointed their chairs:

- ◆ Pedro-Luis Do Nascimento Silva has graciously agreed to chair the IASS **Program Committee** for the Sydney Session (2005). His experience with the Helsinki and Seoul Sessions will stand him in good stead. The Program Committee for the Berlin Session will continue to be chaired by Danny Pfeffermann.

- ◆ The **Nominating Committee**, which will propose candidates for various Board positions for 2003-2005, will be chaired by O.O. Ajayi, who was IASS Vice-President between 1985 and 1987.
- ◆ The **jury for the 2003 Cochran-Hansen Award** will be chaired by Chris Skinner, who was IASS Scientific Secretary between 1993 and 1995 and as Vice-President between 1995 and 1997.

**The Survey Statistician**, which is a vital information resource for members, has improved markedly over the past 2 years, under the watchful eye of its two Editors-in-Chief, Leyla Mohadjer and Jairo Arrow. I congratulate them for their outstanding work and thank them for agreeing to stay on.

While we were in Seoul, we held a special meeting on **The Survey Statistician**, and the IASS General Assembly included it in its discussions – which proves how important everyone thinks the publication is. I hope that all IASS members are interested in further developing its content and quality, and that large numbers will show their interest by sending in contributions, especially to features such as *Country Reports* and *Questions/Answers*.

After coordinating *Country Reports* for 8 years, Gordon Brackstone is handing it off to John Kovar. *Country Reports* was introduced in 1986 and, in Gordon's capable hands, it has developed a network of correspondents in various countries who contribute to making this feature a success. We owe Gordon a big vote of thanks. In addition to articles from correspondents, Gordon put together articles on censuses, which were published in recent numbers. He did the work from start to finish, providing the editors with camera-ready copy in both languages. Thank you again, Gordon. And good luck, John (kovar@statcan.ca).

The *Questions/Answers* feature was created in 1984 by Leslie Kish, and it will continue under the direction of Vijay Verma, who replaced Leslie in 1995. He expects you to provide him with **good questions**, and I am sure he will provide you with **very good answers** (vjverma@compuserve.com). Thank you, Vijay, for agreeing to continue enlightening us.

Another information resource for members is the IASS Web site (www.isi-iass.org or www.surveystats.org), which Fred Vogel has graciously agreed to continue managing, as he has done so magnificently for the past 2 years. He would appreciate any suggestions and proposals you may have that would make the Web site even more useful to all (fvogel@nass.usda.gov).

I am pleased to note that the IASS has been able to expand its activities in these past few years and publish **various papers**, in addition to the review and the traditional session proceedings.

The first "Jubilee volume," containing various significant articles on survey statistics (this was Nanjamma Chinnappa's initiative), will already be in your hands by the time this number of **The Survey Statistician** comes out. Thank you to the United States Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Labor Statistics for putting this volume together and to the Australian Bureau of Statistics for printing and distributing it.

Lars Lyberg is coordinating the preparatory work for the second Jubilee volume, which will include a collection of major articles on survey methodology. I would like to remind you that any suggestions concerning this volume should be sent directly to Lars Lyberg.

Graham Kalton and Colm O'Muircheartaigh are working on a project, accepted in principle by the Board in Seoul, which involves putting together a collection of the best articles by Leslie Kish, as a memorial to the IASS's former President, who died last year.

The IASS also makes its presence and its worth felt by its participation in various ways in **conferences, colloquiums**, and other scientific meetings:

- ◆ The Joint Statistical Meetings, organized principally by the American Statistical Association (ASA), New York, August 11-15, 2002; the IASS will organize one of the guest sessions, which will be dedicated to the memory of Leslie Kish and will focus on training issues;
- ◆ The International Conference on Improving Surveys, Copenhagen, August 25-28, 2002; and
- ◆ The International Conference on Questionnaire Development, Evaluation, and Testing,

Charleston, South Carolina, November 14-17, 2002.

(The last two were announced in previous messages.)

I can also mention the following meetings, involving survey statistics:

- ◆ DataClean 2002, organized by the University of Jyväskylä (Finland) and Statistics Finland, Jyväskylä, May 29-31, 2002; and
- ◆ The Third Francophone Colloquium on Surveys, Autrans (France), October 17-18, 2002.

The 2001 **Cochran-Hansen Award** was won by Kristiina Rajaleid (Estonia), as Kirk Wolter announced in the June number of **The Survey Statistician**. Kristiina and the winner of the ISI's Jan Tinbergen Award presented their papers in Seoul at a special session. During the ISI General Assembly, I had the privilege of giving her the award she would ordinarily have received from Kirk Wolter. The IASS paid her fees for the ISI Session and for the pre-session courses, and John Wiley and Sons presented her with a number of the works they publish. Congratulations, Kristiina, and thank you, John Wiley and Sons.

Award criteria, especially candidate age, were discussed by the Board in Seoul and further discussed subsequently in written exchanges of opinion. The Board decided, as a consequence, to encourage participation by broadening eligibility criteria, including raising the age limit from 30 to 40.

I am firmly convinced that **Local Representatives**, instituted in 1980, can and should play a vital role in the IASS by keeping the President and the Board in closer contact with the membership. I wrote to all Local Representatives asking them to keep up their good work, especially in recruiting new members, collecting membership fees, contributing articles to **The Survey Statistician**, and promoting the Cochran-Hansen Award. They will receive support from Vice-President Anders Christianson, who is replacing Farhad Mehran as coordinator of the network they constitute.

You may have gathered from my message the extent to which the IASS relies on the cooperation, sometimes long-standing and always enthusiastic

and selfless, of a number of its members in order to ensure quality and continuity. However, I am also counting on each one of you, as friends of the IASS, to contribute to its development over the next 2 years.

When you read this message, it will be that time of the year when people traditionally exchange greetings and wish each other success in personal as well as professional undertakings. Allow me to extend to you and yours my warmest and most cordial holiday greetings, and to add the wish, which I am sure you all share, that there be peace on earth.

Xavier Charoy



# Country Reports

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## CANADA

from Gordon Brackstone

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**The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)** is an entirely new survey conducted by Statistics Canada. It was created in order to fill the main statistical gaps concerning health determinants, health status and health system utilization by the Canadian population at the health region level. Each two-year cycle of the CCHS is comprised of two components: a regional component in the first year, with a sample of more than 130,000 respondents, and a provincial component in the second year, with a sample of 30,000 respondents.

For the regional component, with data collection extending from September 2000 to October 2001, the primary goal is to produce cross-sectional estimates for 136 health regions in Canada. To adapt the questionnaire to regional needs as much as possible, an innovative collection strategy was devised. The questionnaire was divided into two parts: one with the core content, lasting 35 minutes, and another part with optional content, lasting 10 minutes. For the optional content, the health regions were able to customize their questionnaire to meet local needs.

The primary objective of the provincial component is to produce cross-sectional estimates on different subjects of interest, such as mental health and wellbeing, nutrition, and social support. For 2002, the subject chosen is the mental health and wellbeing of Canadians. A field test is planned for early in 2002. Following that test, a decision will be made as to when to begin data collection for the survey.

A preliminary release of the regional component, based on the data collected from September 2000 to February 2001, is planned for the coming months. A release based on the final data is planned for the spring of 2002.

For further information on the CCHS, contact Lorna Bailie (613-951-0837; [bailie@statcan.ca](mailto:bailie@statcan.ca)), Health Statistics Division, or Yves Béland (613-951-1494; [yves.beland@statcan.ca](mailto:yves.beland@statcan.ca)), Household Survey Methods Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6.

### **Survey of Information Technology Occupations:**

This new survey, sponsored by Human Resources Development Canada, collects data for both employers and employees in Information Technology. The Employer Survey collects statistical information from employers on various employment issues, such as hiring and recruitment practices, employee retention and training for information technology occupations in Canada. The Employee Survey will collect information from a sample of employees who work in the locations surveyed in the employer survey, and will cover educational background, work history, skills training and the skills that employees require in their current positions. A pilot survey was completed in the Autumn of 2000, and collection of data for the national survey will take place in September 2002.

For further information regarding this survey contact Mary March ([marcmar@statcan.ca](mailto:marcmar@statcan.ca) or at 613-951-1473).

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## CHINA

from Huang Langhui

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China's second census on basic economic units is being conducted following the first one in 1996. The objectives of the census are: to ascertain the number of various units across the country; to have a good knowledge of their organizational forms, economic structure, size, disposition of essential factors of production, industry distribution and regional distribution; to gradually establish and improve a database of basic units which will cover the whole country, link up different sectors, and which can be shared and renewed dynamically; to provide basic information for standardizing the market order, strengthening the social supervision,

adjusting the economic framework, optimizing industry policy and formulating urban and rural construction plans; and to lay a sound basis for other kinds of censuses and sample surveys.

The census work is carried out under the leadership of the State Council and governments at all levels. The enumeration day of the census is 31 December 2001. The census period will be the year 2001. The census covers all legal entities and their affiliated industry-active units including private non-enterprise units and various private enterprises across the country excluding Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan Province. The legal entities include corporate enterprise, institutions, governmental agencies, social organizations and others. Units which were established legally but cannot independently undertake civil liability are taken as the industry-active units. A legal entity is composed of industry-active units which are controlled and managed by the legal entity. The individual industrial and commercial business households can also be covered by the census if the local governments need and can provide the funds.

The principle adopted in the census is that units are enumerated in the administrative regions where they are located and that census data will be submitted to the upper level by administrative regions.

There are two kinds of questionnaires: basic questionnaire and aggregated questionnaire. The basic questionnaire is divided into two parts, the first part is the Table of Basic Information on Legal Entity, the second part is the Table of Basic Information on Industry-active Units. The aggregated questionnaire is divided into 5 parts, i.e., Number of Legal Entities and Industry-active Units, Number of Legal Entities by Type of Unit, Number of Industry-active Units by Type of Unit, Basic Information on Legal Entities and Basic Information on Industry-active Units.

In principle, the census is conducted by combining the questionnaire enumeration with the recording of administrative registration of related departments. If it is possible, the enumeration areas may be drawn so that the units can be enumerated one by one. The related administrative departments at different levels should, by law, provide the census offices at

the same level with administrative registration records needed during the census.

The census offices at the county level will make a check on the units according to the name list of census units and organize the filling-in of questionnaire on the principle of avoiding under-enumeration and over-enumeration. The provincial census offices will complete all the preparatory works of the census at the end of 2001, and complete all the enumeration, data-processing and data submission works before the end of June 2002 according to a unified plan for the country. The data check and preliminary tabulation will be finished before the end of July 2002. The establishment or renewal of the database of basic units at national, provincial, prefecture and county levels will be completed before the end of December 2002.

The processing of census data will be organized and conducted at four levels of state, province, prefecture and county according to the unified data-processing program. A working pattern that the census offices at each level will process the basic census data at its level and submit the basic census data and the aggregated data to the upper level will be adopted.

The census offices at different levels will formulate detailed rules for data quality control and carry out the overall quality control on all stages of work including training plan, units check, enumeration, questionnaire filling-in, collection of questionnaire, examination of questionnaire, data entry, data-processing and acceptance check. After enumeration, census offices at different levels should carry out post-enumeration tests in their own administrative regions through selecting both random and purposive samples.

The census results will be disseminated to the public in bulletin form. Prior to dissemination, the census offices should evaluate and analyze their data. The responsible administrative departments at different levels should actively cooperate and assist the census offices at same level to check, revise and evaluate the tabulated census data.

The national, provincial, prefecture and county databases of basic units will be set up and managed by their respective census offices, which are maintained, renewed and shared by the related responsible administrative departments. The

census offices at different levels should pay close attention to the preservation and management of census data, disseminate the census data to the public by making a full use of computer network and organize in-depth study and application of the census data.

For more information, please contact Mr. Huang Langhui by e-mail at: [huanglh@stats.gov.cn](mailto:huanglh@stats.gov.cn).

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## **THE COMOROS**

from Mhadji Nailane

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The Statistics Branch is currently preparing for the 2002 General Census of Population and Housing (GCPH). Work will begin shortly. In fact, this operation will benefit from some of the knowledge acquired during the 1991 GCPH.

In the past few years, the Statistics Branch has organized three major surveys: the Budget-Consumption Survey (BCS) in 1995; the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in 1996; and the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) in 2000.

Each of these operations is social in nature and contributes to the development policy. The BCS contributes substantially more to defining poverty reduction strategies. The DHS and the MICS are more focussed on social variables of interest to other sectors of society. These operations help understand the different dimensions of poverty.

The last MICS examined a sample of 4,400 households made up of 218 clusters (147 rural and 71 urban) and 2 strata. The survey consisted of three questionnaires (a household questionnaire, a women's questionnaire and a child's questionnaire).

For poverty reduction, a structure has been implemented to define a strategy called "Stepping Up National Capacity for Developing a Strategy for Poverty Reduction and for Follow-Up to International Conferences". This is a joint project between the General Commissary for the Plan and the Department of Cooperation for International Conference Follow-Up.

The project has two objectives: 1) to develop a policy and a national poverty reduction strategy; and 2) to implement an effective structure for follow-up to international conferences recommendations. A

decision has been made to establish a research institute for social development that will be responsible for studying poverty indicators and evaluating the impact of the poverty reduction policy.

The project began this year in 2001 and will last two years.

One last survey called "the Survey on Job and Professional Training Structure" was conducted in 2000-2001.

For more information, please contact Mhadji Nailane ([nailane@zdnetwork.com](mailto:nailane@zdnetwork.com)).

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## **FINLAND**

from Kari Djerf

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Data for the fifth national Drinking Habits Survey were collected during Autumn 2000. These surveys were started in 1968 as a consequence of relatively large liberalisation of the Finnish alcohol policy, and they have been carried out with an eight year interval since then. The studies aim at providing a description of the population distribution of alcohol consumption, including amounts consumed by different socio-economic groups. Data for the four previous studies were collected by the interviewers selected from the personnel of the State Alcohol Monopoly whereas Statistics Finland was responsible for the data collection of the latest survey in 2000. Additionally, in 1992 a methodological study was coinducted by Statistics Finland to explore possible effects of changing the data collecting organisation.

The drinking behaviour of target population (15 to 69 years) has changed dramatically during the 32 year time span. For example, one key indicator, the share of abstainers has more than halved to the current 9%. The five studies also serve as a good indicator of increasing nonresponse trends: 1968 3%, 1976 4%, 1984 6%, 1992 13% and 2000 22%. More information can be obtained from the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES), <http://www.stakes.fi>.

The third Time Use Survey (TUS) in Finland was conducted in 1999-2000 by using the harmonised European time use survey scheme. The survey covered 12 months from the first of March in 1999 to the end of April 2000. Data were collected on the



household and individual level by using interviews and diaries. The sampling design was single stage cluster sampling where households served as clusters and individuals were elementary units. The sample was drawn from the Population Register by using a master sample which was a large sample serving as the sampling frame for the second phase sampling. Individuals 10 years or older formed the target population. Households made up another target population for the variables studied on the household level. The sample size was 4,677 households from which 3,011 households (64.4%) responded. Those households included 6,265 responding persons. The response rate of the first diary was 51.7%, and the second diary 51.0%.

Table: Diary nonresponse of interviewed persons

Interview received	%
- but not diaries	15.3
- no daily diaries but a weekly	0.6
1 <sup>st</sup> diary but not 2 <sup>nd</sup> diary	1.4
2 <sup>nd</sup> diary but not 1 <sup>st</sup> diary	0.2
Both diaries but no weekly diary	41.7
All diaries completed	38.1

Weights were composed in several steps, which took into account the sampling design, the household level information of the population, the household level nonresponse adjustment, the calibration of demographic data, the allocation of the sample to diary days, and balancing the diary weights on the daily level. The basic results of the study will be published before the end of 2001. For additional information please contact Mr. Paavo Väisänen (e-mail Paavo.Vaisanen@stat.fi), or Mr. Hannu Paakkonen (e-mail Hannu.Paakkonen@stat.fi).

In late May 2002 there will be two subsequent events on data editing and imputation. Firstly a UNECE Work Session on Data Editing will take place on 27-29 May 2002 in Helsinki. It will be hosted by Statistics Finland. Those interested in proposing papers should contact Ms. Jana Meliskova at the UNECE (e-mail jana.meliskova@unece.org).

See the home page  
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2002.05.sde.htm>.

And just after the UNECE work session, the Data-clean Conference will begin. It is a conference on techniques for dealing with corrupted and missing data in large scale statistical data processing and will be held on 29-31 May 2002 at the University of Jyväskylä. The focus will be on recent developments in the application of computer intensive methods to these problems, particularly those based on the application of neural networks and related methods, and their comparison with more established methods. The chair of the organising committee is Dr. Pasi Koikkalainen. For additional information and for sending abstracts, please see the conference web site <http://erin.mit.jyu.fi/dataclean>.

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## ISRAEL

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from Natalie Shlomo

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Along with our annual socio-economic surveys at Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, the Labour Force Survey, the Income Survey, and the Family Expenditure Survey, several new surveys are at various stages of implementation.

The **Social Survey** will soon be in the field after extensive pretests and the development of a data capture system using CAPI/Blaise. The survey is funded mostly by the Ministry of Finance and its purpose is to provide social and economic indicators. The survey will be carried out annually and will include a core questionnaire containing questions on health, housing, education, employment, security, cultural and social activities, family ties and community involvement. Every year a supplementary questionnaire will be added according to different subjects of interest. The first supplementary questionnaire is on pension arrangements for retirement (Life Insurance, Pension funds, etc.). The sample size will be about 10,000 individuals aged 20 and over drawn systematically from the National Population Register within strata based on population group, sex and age groups and geographical areas. The sample will be renewed every year, with supplementary samples for new immigrants arriving in Israel. The sample will be allocated evenly throughout the year to assure a representative sample every month with respect to socio-economic characteristics, and every individual will be interviewed personally in the field.

The field work for the **Victimization Survey for Households and Individuals** has just been completed using CATI/Blaise, and is in the initial stages of the weighting process. The topics of interest include crimes against the household (e.g., breaking and entering, auto theft, damage to property) and the individual (e.g., assaults, robberies, sexual crimes). The survey is funded by the Ministry of Internal Security and its purpose is to get independent results on crime since a large number go unreported. The questionnaire for the households was appended to the Labour Force Survey, and included about 4,500 households. The sample of individuals was drawn systematically from rotating-out panels of the Labour Force Survey from among those aged 18 and over and included about 4,600 individuals.

The **Health Survey** was a supplementary investigation attached to the Labour Force Survey for one panel out of the four panels investigated every quarter, and continued for four subsequent quarters. The sample size was about 10,000 households. The survey was funded by the Ministry of Health and the topics of interest were visits to doctors, hospitalization, selected illnesses, smoking, and handicaps. Post-stratification was used for calculating the weights based on an integrated multi-dimensional raking and calibration method. In each population group, the sample was post-stratified for household characteristics: education level of the household, family type, housing density and number of children, and for individuals: geographic area by sex by age group. The auxiliary data for the individuals was obtained from the annual demographic data based on the last Population Census of 1995. The auxiliary data for the households are calculated using the Labour Force Survey files that undergo a special weighting and imputation procedure for obtaining improved household data by using longitudinal adjustments for the non-response. A user-friendly program in SAS was developed for obtaining estimates and estimated sampling errors for the publication of the survey. The program calculates estimated sampling errors for totals, averages and proportions for a stratified sample of clusters (households) with unequal weights and is geared for the user with little or no knowledge of SAS.

For more information, please contact Natalie Shlomo, Statistical Methods Division, Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel, Tel: (972)-2-659-2717,

Fax: (972)-2-659-2756 or by e-mail at [natalies@cbs.gov.il](mailto:natalies@cbs.gov.il).

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## ITALY

from Claudio Quintano

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One of the crucial points of the **Time Use Survey**, that we are now planning and that will take place in April 2002, is the delicate process of coding the alphabetical information contained in the diaries that the interviewed person has to fill in, describing the activities that he/she has done during one specific day.

We have chosen, therefore, to use an on-line assisted strategy of coding which is an electronic tool that supports the coding activity and makes it easier and faster. However, it places at the centre of the activity the critical ability of the coder that is essential given the high complexity of the coding system of the Time Use Survey.

The most important advantages of this strategy consist of the possibility to: limit the number of persons that code, invest more in their training; bring up-to-date an intensive system of supervision and control in order to maintain a high quality standard, and; improve, during the activity and with a minimum effort, the working tools for the coding job (integration of the classification tree, expansion of the dictionary, etc).

For more information, contact Linda Laura Sabbadini at [sabbadin@istat.it](mailto:sabbadin@istat.it).

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## PERU

from Leonor Laguna

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**Preparatory work for the 2003 population and housing census for Peru:** The last population and housing census in Peru was carried out in 1993. The Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática is preparing the next census for 2003.

They want to introduce the following changes and innovations: 1) They would like to have a de jure census. All the former censuses were de facto censuses. With this purpose an Experimental Census will be carried out in a district close to Lima City, from 14 to 21 October 2001, where both a de jure census and a de facto census will be carried out. The statistical analysis of the results will help to decide which type of census to choose for the final

work. Indicators will be developed to compare the results of both procedures with former censuses. They will determine an adequate workload for enumerators, as well as the convenient period of reference, for both types of census; 2) The processing of the questionnaires will be decentralized to 4 or 5 processing centres. For the first time data entry will utilize optical reading of marks and characters on census forms using a scanner; 3) Information on persons with physical disadvantages, number and characteristics, will be introduced for the first time, and 4) On an exploratory basis information on ethnic group of persons, from the point of view of the respondent, will be asked.

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## PHILIPPINES

from Gervacio G. Selda, Jr.

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The Department of Economic Research (DER) of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Central Bank of the Philippines) has updated its sampling design for its semestral **Business Expectations Survey (BES)**. The survey is undertaken to get the general business and industry perceptions of the current state of business in the economy and of the economic prospects for the succeeding semester. It is also aimed at providing policy makers/monetary managers some indicators of economic activity and to act as a guide to economic/financial policy planning. Since its inception in 1986, a pre-determined sample of about 300-500 corporations was used until 1997. These were drawn from the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) 1984 listing of the Philippine's top 1,000 corporations in terms of revenues using the stratified random sampling technique. The firms were stratified according to nine industry groups, with stratum sizes following the Neyman allocation for a minimum sum of relative variances.

By the mid nineties, there was a decreased response rate to the mailed questionnaire, as well as simple deductions in the responses. Also, it was expected that the distribution of the firms among the nine industries would have changed appreciably since then. More broadly, the increased importance of feeding back the expectations of the business managers, through the BES, due partly to the more active investment climate and the various industry liberalization initiatives, called for an upgrade or fine tuning of the statistical soundness of the BES

output, in turn calling for a review of its methodology.

The initial step to improve the survey methodology was taken in 1999. This involved the determination of appropriate sample size, and drawing up of a more current set of respondents for the survey. The new respondents, still stratified according to the nine industries, were drawn from the 1997 Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) list of the Philippine's top 2000 corporations. The ordering of the firms in the said list is based on the revenue performance for 1996.

Instead of the usual fixed sample size of about 500 in the old methodology, a more formal statistical procedure was followed to estimate the total sample size for the survey using sales, profit and equity as basis and not only the revenue data as in previous methodology. These three variables were used to provide separate estimates of the ideal total sample size based on a simple cost function and desired sample variance. This determination of the sample size and its allocation were based on formulas set forth for stratified random sampling with presumed optimum allocation taken from Cochran's Sampling Techniques (1953). Virtually all data points, and thus all statistical information, available in the SEC list were used. Thus, the mean and variances as well as other important statistics for each of these three business variables were computed across 2000 firms listed, as well as each industry listing of each said variable. Estimates for the overall sample size were 663, 668 and 537 using the data for sales, profit and equity, respectively. These three results were rounded off and, in turn, allocated among the industries using the Neyman formulas for comparative purposes. Small sample sizes for some strata were increased, resulting in an overall sample size of 725. Systematic sampling was used within each industry.

The new methodology was used in the first semester survey conducted in June 2000. For more details, contact: Ms. Ludovinia D. Gador, DER, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Manila, Philippines, Fax No. (632) 523-1252, e-mail: lgador@bsp.gov.ph.

In August 2000, the National Statistics Office (NSO) launched the field operation for the **2000 Census of Philippine Business and Industry (CPBI)**. Formerly known as the Census of Establishments

(CE), the CPBI will collect and compile statistics from establishments pertaining to their economic activities in the Philippines for the year 1999. The change in the name from CE to CPBI was made so as to make the establishment inquiry more reflective of the data being produced from it.

The CPBI aims to provide levels of economic activity and changes in the structure of the country's business and industry sectors at the provincial, regional and national levels and for selected cities in the country. The CPBI is the 13<sup>th</sup> in the series of economic censuses in the country. Industry sectors covered are those engaged in (i) agriculture, hunting and forestry, (ii) fishing, (iii) mining and quarrying, (iv) manufacturing, (v) electricity, gas and water, (vi) construction, (vii) wholesale and retail trade, (viii) hotels and restaurants, (ix) transport, storage and communications, (x) financial intermediation, (xi) real estate, renting and business activities, (xii) health and social work, (xiii) private education, and (xiv) other community, social and personal service activities.

The census questionnaires were personally distributed to about 60,000 establishments nationwide and the completed questionnaires were to be collected within 30 days of their distribution. Unlike in previous economic censuses, the data processing for the CPBI (which is microcomputer-based and involves data encoding, completeness and edit checks and verification) will now be decentralized to the NSO field offices. Subsequently, the preliminary summary tables by industry would be generated by each NSO provincial office while regional consolidation of provincial figures will be done by the NSO regional offices. The Central Office will generate the final tables by sector at the provincial, regional and national levels.

The planning for CPBI included consultations with government agencies and private sectors, particularly business and industry associations. The highlight of such consultations was a forum where the heads of various government agencies and business and industry leaders pledged their support for the census. For more information, contact Adm. Tomas P. Africa, National Statistics Office, Sta. Mesa, Manila, Philippines, Fax No. (632) 713-7073, e-mail: T.Africa@mail.census.gov.ph.

The Philippine statistical system held its **8<sup>th</sup> National Convention on Statistics** last October 1-2, 2001 at the Westin Philippine Plaza in Manila with the theme "*The Role of Statistics in a Knowledge-Based Economy*." The biennial activity, which was spearheaded by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), coincided with the opening of the 12<sup>th</sup> National Statistics Month and the ASEAN Workshop on Development Indicators sponsored by the UN Statistics Division. For more details, contact: Dr. Romulo A. Virola, Secretary General of the NSCB at [ncs@nscb.gov.ph](mailto:ncs@nscb.gov.ph) or <http://www.nscb.gov.ph/ncs>.

The **Philippine Statistical Association (PSA)**, the only professional association of statisticians in the Philippines, held a launching ceremony on September 24, 2001 in Quezon City to start its year-long activities in celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary. The theme of the celebration is *PSA at 50: Strengthening the Role of Statistics and Statisticians in Society*. Dr. Vicente B. Valdepeñas, Jr. of the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and a former PSA president, delivered the keynote message for the launching ceremony. Information on the PSA Golden Jubilee activities as well as on the association itself are available from the PSA Secretariat at [psa@info.com.ph](mailto:psa@info.com.ph).

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## POLAND

from Janusz Wyvial

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The conference on **Regional Statistics for Local Government and Business** will be held on September 2-5, 2002 in Lagow, Poland. It is organised by the Department of Statistics of the University of Economics in Poznan, <http://www.ae.poznan.pl/>, and the Centre of Regional Statistics <http://csr.ae.poznan.pl>. The chairman of the Conference is J. Paradysz, [paradysz@novci1.ae.poznan.pl](mailto:paradysz@novci1.ae.poznan.pl) or [paradysz@csr.ae.poznan.pl](mailto:paradysz@csr.ae.poznan.pl). The conference is organised every two years. The following topics will be covered: theory and practice of survey methodology, small area statistics, labour market, statistics in regional management, administrative data sources for regional statistics, adaptation of Polish regional statistics to standards of the European Community.

The problem of assessing the accuracy of parameter estimation based on complex samples is very important from a theoretical as well

as from a practical point of view. It is only one of the problems connected with preparing and implementing survey sampling design. Such problems are addressed by the Research Centre for Economic and Statistical Studies of the Central Statistical Office and The Polish Academy of Sciences (ZBSE), <http://www.stat.gov.pl/zbse/index.htm>. In addition to survey sampling problems, ZBSE is also concerned with more general economic analyses. Recently, the problem of estimation of mean square error under complex sampling strategies was considered by Cz. Bracha and J. Jakubowski, [ZBSE@stat.gov.pl](mailto:ZBSE@stat.gov.pl). Especially, the two-stage sampling design with non-constant inclusion probabilities was analysed. They investigated methods of balanced half-samples. Their results are supported by large simulation studies.

**Applications of small area methods in regional survey sampling** are being developed. Small domain estimators are being considered in analysing the activities of small enterprises. A stratified sample was drawn from the population of these enterprises in one of the provinces of Poland. The efficiency of the estimators was analysed by means of a Monte Carlo method. For more details contact: T. Jurkiewicz, [t.jurkiewicz@zr.univ.gda.pl](mailto:t.jurkiewicz@zr.univ.gda.pl). Small area methods are also used to estimate the total unemployed in one of the Polish regions. The analysis was based on data from the 1995 Micro-census, a large-scale sample survey. The sample was drawn by means of a stratified two-stage sampling design. At the first stage, 15% of census districts (clusters of flats) were selected. At the second stage, 5% of flats (primary units) were drawn from each previously drawn census district. More details can be explained by E. Golata, [golata@novci1.ae.poznan.pl](mailto:golata@novci1.ae.poznan.pl).

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## SWEDEN

from Anders Christianson

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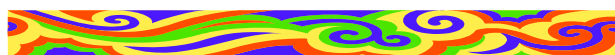
**Swedish Commission on Overview of Economic Statistics:** In September 2000 the Swedish Government appointed the Director General of Statistics Sweden, Svante Öberg, as a Commissioner to review Sweden's economic statistics. The task is mainly to come up with suggestions on how to improve the Swedish National Accounts, the primary statistics for the National Accounts, productivity calculations and statistics on income distribution. This should be

done by investigating the user needs of economic statistics and by visiting some ten countries to see how they have built their systems for economic statistics. Three international experts will also give their opinion on the Swedish system for National Accounts. In December 2002 the Commission will present its final report.

A report on user needs was published in March 2001. There were four main areas, which the Commission concluded, are the most urgent to improve: price indices for the service sector, input-output tables, capital stocks and ICT statistics. There are also strong demands from institutions like the ECB and Eurostat for improvements of timeliness. The Commission has taken an active part in the EU Task Force on benchmarking vis-à-vis the US, which resulted in ambitious recommendations about European economic statistics to be produced as fast as in the US. Studies on input-output statistics, revisions in the National Accounts and a documentation of the Swedish National Accounts are other projects that are now carried out by the Commission. Work on different aspects of dissemination of statistics is also carried out.

A study of household disposable income in Income Statistics and in the National Accounts has been published on the website of Statistics Sweden and an overview of the disposable income in the Income Statistics is on its way. The Commission also works on a project to get new equivalence scales for comparing households of different size.

For more information, contact Anders Christianson at [anders.christianson@scb.se](mailto:anders.christianson@scb.se).



# Italian Automated Cause-of-Death Coding System

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Data on mortality by cause are annually collected, processed, and published by the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT). All Italian municipalities have to complete and send to ISTAT a death certificate for every death that occurs in their geographical area. Therefore, sociodemographic variables (such as age, sex, marital status, and educational level) and epidemiological information are available for every death. The medical portion of the death certificate lists all pathologies (whether fatal or nonfatal) and, when applicable, the traumatic circumstances that occurred to the individual before death. Nevertheless, the published data refer only to one cause of death, the underlying cause—that is, the one that was most directly responsible for death. For 1994 (the last data published) and earlier data, the underlying cause of death was manually selected and coded by specialized ISTAT personnel, on the basis of the “selection rules” recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

A new way of coding has been introduced at ISTAT: approximately 80 percent of deaths occurring in 1995 (and later) have been automatically coded by means of a software system that was developed and has been used since the 1970s by the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics.

Automated cause-of-death coding, as implemented in Italy, is based on two elements:

- ◆ **MICAR** (Mortality Indexing Classification and Retrieval) and
- ◆ **ACME** (Automated Classification of Medical Entities).

**MICAR** is a complex two-module program:

1. The **first module** links each cause on the death certificate with an entity reference number (ERN), using a dictionary. A listing of

causes of death (Entities) is included in the dictionary. To improve the performance of this first module, the medical terms used by certifying doctors must be standardized during editing, in accordance with the MICAR dictionary. About 160,000 medical terms are included in the MICAR dictionary.

2. In the **second module**, ERNs are changed into ICD-9 codes, using specific coding rules. An ICD-9 code consists of one or more ERNs, depending on their relationship.

**ACME** automatically selects (using specific true/false tables) the underlying cause of death in accordance with WHO coding. The input file includes codes for the various morbidities, injuries, or external causes. Codes are selected either manually or through the MICAR procedure.

Automated coding produces improvements in the entire process of data production. The consistency of cause-of-death coding is improved by using an objective approach to coding (thanks to the automated standardized procedure) rather than a subjective approach (based on human decision). Automation also increases comparability with other countries that use automated coding. Other advantages include the elimination of data entry errors and shorter coding time. In addition, the entry of all pathologies reported by doctors on death certificates improves the knowledge of the entire morbidity-mortality process.

Note, however, that automation can lead to some discontinuities in cause-of-death data if we compare deaths automatically coded with previous deaths that were manually coded. For this reason, we selected a wide sample of deaths occurring in 1995 and used both automated and manual procedures to process each form. This study was necessary to explain differences between the 1995 cause-of-death data and the previous year's data. Using the results of this research, we built a “Bridge

Coding Coefficients" table and included this table in *Causes of Death Annuary—Year 1995*. This table contains a list of main ICD-9 cause groups and a coefficient K to allow crossing between the two coding systems. Multiplying the number of deaths manually coded and the K coefficient, we obtain the number of deaths as they were automatically coded. This table is useful when researchers or physicians want to compare some series of mortality data. Also available are K coefficients created using more detailed ICD-9 codes.



# Time Use Survey: How South African Women and Men Spend their Time

Debbie Budlender and Jairo Arrow  
Statistics South Africa

## Background

During 2000, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducted the fieldwork for the first national time use study in the country. The aim of the survey was to provide information on the way in which different individuals in South Africa spend their time. Such information contributes to greater understanding by policy-makers on the economic and social well-being of different societal groups. In particular, the study was intended to provide new information on the division of both paid and unpaid labour between women and men, and greater insight into less well understood productive activities such as subsistence work, casual work, and work in the informal sector.

## Objectives

The survey thus had dual objectives: (1) improvement of concepts, methodology, and measurement of all types of work and work-related activity and (2) the contribution of information to improve policy-making, with a particular focus on gender equity.

The first report on the survey was launched by Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel at a summit of the three bodies which are at the centre of the country's national machinery – the Office on the Status of Women in the Office of the President, the Commission on Gender Equality, and the national parliament's Committee on the Quality of Life and Status of Women. The report was launched several days before South Africa's National Women's Day. Because the survey was the first national time use study in South Africa and one of the first in the developing world, the report discusses not only results but also methodology, in particular, those aspects where Stats SA introduced innovations. Alongside the main report, the Minister also launched a pamphlet which presents the key findings with simple graphics and explanations in five languages.

## Methodology

The fieldwork for the study was conducted in three rounds or tranches – February, June, and October 2000 – so as to catch possible seasonal variations in time use. The sample covered all nine provinces and, within each province, four different settlement types – formal urban, informal urban, commercial farms, and other rural settlements.

Within each household, two people aged 10 years or above were selected systematically and asked what activities they had performed on the previous day. The study used a 24-hour diary, divided into half-hour slots, as the core instrument to record activities. In each slot, a maximum of three activities could be recorded. The diary was administered face-to-face to the respondent by means of an interview.

In addition to the diary, the questionnaire contained many of the standard questions of Stats SA household surveys. This was done to facilitate comparison across surveys. Thus one member per household provided basic information about the household as a whole, and, before administration of the diary, the respondent was asked for basic demographic information about themselves, such as age, sex, children, and work-related situation.

The planned sample for the survey was 10,800 dwelling units, 3,600 per tranche. The realised sample was smaller than planned, at 8,564 households and 14,553 respondents. The main reasons for non-realisation of the full sample were unoccupied dwelling units and dwelling units that were marked on the maps but were not found on the ground. For those dwelling units that were contacted, the response rate by selected individuals was 94%. This is much higher than is achieved in most developed countries.

For coding the activities recorded in the half-hour slots, the survey used a trial classification



developed by the United Nations (UN) Statistics Division. This UN classification was developed in response to the perception that existing classification systems were biased towards a first-world situation. In developing the trial classification, the UN expert group attempted to develop a more detailed classification for economic activities and, in particular, for informal activities. This accorded well with Stats SA's objective of using the time use study to reach a better understanding of productive activities.

### **The System of National Accounts and Unpaid Labour**

The international System of National Accounts (SNA), from which macro-economic descriptors such as the gross domestic product (GDP) are calculated, takes certain productive activities into account, but not others. An important aspect of the UN classification system is the fact that these 10 categories can be grouped according to how they are treated in the SNA, and thus in the calculation of GDP.

In virtually all parts of the world, women are more likely to do the work of rearing and caring for children, caring for other household members, cooking, cleaning, and fetching water and fuel. These types of activities can be seen as "reproductive" work. Men, meanwhile, are more likely to be producing goods and services exchanged in the market. Reproductive work produces something without which the rest of the economy and society would not exist, namely people. In order to produce these people, the reproductive workers produce a wide range of goods and services. Many of these services have their equivalents in the market economy. For example, one can pay for a domestic worker to clean, for a cook to prepare meals, and for a nursemaid to look after a child. However, the bulk of these services are provided on an unpaid basis.

The 1999 South African *Budget Review* defines GDP as "a measure of total national output, income and expenditure in the economy." It notes, however, that "GDP per head...does not take account of the distribution of income, nor of goods and services that are produced outside the economy, such as work within the household" (Department of Finance, 1999). The time use survey provides data that lay the basis for an elaboration of GDP through parallel

national accounts. This starts to take account of goods produced "outside the (paid) economy."

### **Some Key Findings**

The most basic disaggregation, by sex and SNA-related category, shows that, on average, men spent 13% of their time on SNA production activities and 6% of their time on non-SNA production. Women, on the other hand, spent, on average, 8% of their time on SNA production activities and 15% on non-SNA production. Women thus spent, on average, a larger proportion of their day (23%) on productive activities than did men (19%). However, women were likely to be paid for less of the time they spent on productive activities per day than men.

In households where a domestic worker bore the chief responsibility for housework, the average amount of time per day spent by both women and men on these tasks decreased. There was, however, a greater decrease in the average man's workload than that of the average women. Women in households where a domestic worker did most of the housework spent an average of 148 minutes per day on housework, while men spent an average of only 47 minutes per day. Women in households where a domestic worker did not bear the main responsibility spent an average of 183 minutes per day, while men spent an average of 75 minutes.

Child care represents another important form of unpaid work. The survey revealed that the average minutes per day spent on child care by both women and men tends to increase when they have children under 7 years and to increase even more when these children live with them. Women in each category spent more minutes per day on child care than did men. Thus, women who had children living with them spent an average of 87 minutes per day on child care, compared to an average of 7 minutes for men in this position and 12 minutes per day for women with no children of this age.

The time use survey provided further information on another form of unpaid work which is common in South Africa and other developing countries, namely fetching water and fuel for household use. Officially, these should be classified as SNA production. However, most of the activity is performed for no pay.

The survey reveals that, among households where water was collected, women and girls were more likely than men and boys to be responsible for this task, irrespective of the distance from the source. The data further revealed that those whose dwelling was within 100 metres of water spent an average of 44 minutes per day collecting water, while those who had to travel a kilometre or more spent an average of 71 minutes per day collecting water. The patterns in respect of fuel were similar, except that the time spent was longer – an average of 78 minutes per day for those with fuel within 100 metres of the dwelling and 128 minutes per day for those where fuel was collected from a kilometre or further away.



As noted, the time use survey was intended to capture both unpaid work and forms of paid work that can be overlooked in regular surveys. Over the last few years, Stats SA has improved its capturing of informal and “non-standard” work. Nevertheless, even the new approaches do not succeed in capturing all the targeted work activities, as the instruments contend with the strong perceptions and assumptions of both interviewers and respondents as to what constitutes “economic work.”

The time use study is a complementary way of approaching the issue of economic work. The survey suggests that the standard employment status questions used in the labour force survey may not be picking up all economic activities. Thus, 18% of all respondents who reported some SNA productive activities in the previous 24 hours said they had not done any “work” in the past 7 days. This merits further investigation.

## **Conclusion**

Stats SA’s relatively small and stand-alone time use survey proved that such a survey is feasible in a developing country with relatively high rates of illiteracy. Stats SA introduced a number of innovations in its methodology of time use to cater to the nature of the country and its population. Other developing countries might find some of these innovations useful. The first report from Stats SA reveals only a small fraction of the type of analysis that is possible with the available data. Stats SA hopes that other analysts will be inspired to use the data and uncover more of the richness of what it can tell us.

## Special Articles: Censuses Conducted around the World

### 2001 Census of Population and Housing in Australia

The Australian census was held on the night of August 7, 2001. A 50-question, 16-page form was delivered to each of the 8.5 million households in Australia in the week before census night and collected within the 2 weeks following, using a field force of 27,000. The estimated resident population at this time was 19.4 million persons. Forms were transported via secure trucks to a holding center near the single data processing center in Sydney.

The entire operation went without major incident or controversy thanks to improved training for the field force, a streamlined pay system, and a reliable transport contractor. The public communications campaign in particular was an outstanding success, with nearly 9,000 media mentions over the 3-week period. More than 80 percent of these were positive or neutral. Potentially damaging issues related to privacy, certain topics included in the census, and certain topics excluded from the census were effectively neutralized or turned into positives as a result of campaign planning or by effective media action during the campaign.

For the first time, processing of the forms will utilize imaging (Kodak scanners), intelligent character recognition (IBM's Intelligent Forms Processing software), and automatic coding (ABS-developed software). More than 50 percent of responses to complex topics such as industry, qualifications, and occupation are expected to be automatically coded. This will lead to cost savings, as will a processing operation using images rather than paper forms. Production rates at this early stage in processing are in line with expectations.

A complementary set of dissemination products, with particular focus on the Internet and the use of standardized interfaces with user-friendly navigation, are planned for delivery beginning in July 2002. An on-line service for ordering client-specified cross-tabulations has been established.

For the first time, persons were given the option of having their name-identified census information

preserved on microfilm and securely stored by the National Archives of Australia for public release in 99 years.



### Census-Taking in Comoros

#### 1. Introduction

The first census in Comoros was taken in 1958, the second in 1966. The population figures produced by the two surveys were 183,133 and 243,948 respectively. Since gaining its independence in 1975, Comoros has conducted a general census of population and housing only on three islands: Anjouan, Grande Comore and Mohéli (in 1980 and 1991).

A third census is in preparation for 2002. It was originally planned for 2001 so that there would be 10 years between censuses. There has been little innovation since the 1980 census. Nevertheless, three aspects of the 1991 operation are worth reviewing: mapping, the questionnaire and familiarization.

#### 2. Mapping

Mapping is the part of the census that takes the longest. This was particularly true in 1991 (April 1990 – July 1991), the first census in which national structures were involved. Mapping was carried out entirely by hand. It was done only in places with a population larger than an enumeration area (500 people). Topographers surveyed the land, and their sketches were used to produce maps for the census representatives. The maps were used to delineate the enumeration areas.

#### 3. Questionnaire

The questionnaire is the medium used to record data collected in face-to-face interviews between census representatives and heads of households. The purely national character of the operation is noteworthy. To avoid any ambiguity in the

interpretation of various terms, the questionnaire was translated in full into the national language. Since Comorans do not normally use French in their day-to-day lives, the questions had to be asked in the national language, Shikomori. Language differences between the islands that make up the country are very minor.

#### **4. Familiarization**

Familiarization teams were assembled to make the public aware of the value and importance of the census. The teams used posters, radio programs, songs and advertising to get their message out. They also travelled the country, visiting every locality to make direct contact with members of the public.

Experience gained in 1991 will assist in the process of organizing the 2002 census.

#### **5. 2002 General Census of Population and Housing**

The Statistics Branch is preparing for the country's next census of population in 2002.

The methodology will be almost exactly the same as in 1991, though an effort is being made to improve mapping and the questionnaire.

For mapping, electronic processing of the maps is planned to assist in identifying areas for specific studies, such as poverty zones.

With respect to the questionnaire, certain variables will inevitably be affected, and others will be added. For example, the employment variable used to provide information about occupations by employment but not by profile.

#### **6. Value of Census-Taking in Comoros**

That the census is important to survey-taking goes without saying. The enumeration areas delineated through mapping have been used as a household sample frame for the majority of surveys conducted in recent years, including the household spending survey and the population and health survey.

In addition, the population structure can be used as a means of verifying the numbers of people included in voters lists. The number of electors is

sometimes inflated because there is some uncertainty about people's ages.

Among the future priorities is the organization of civil registration. The census will lead to the establishment of village records, which will document the main population variables.



#### **2001 Census of Population and Housing in Italy**

The 2001 Census of Population and Housing for Italy will be carried out in October, together with the Census of Industries and Services. The 2001 Census will be organized by ISTAT, the National Statistical Institute, with the help of the statistical offices of each municipality.

A public register of population (called "Anagrafe") exists in Italy for each of the 8,100 municipalities, and one of the main aims of the population census is to update and check these registers of resident people.

During the 2001 Census, buildings will be enumerated for the first time. In fact, until 1991 census buildings were neither enumeration units nor units of analysis. During the last 10 years, however, many users have pushed to fill this information gap through a specific building survey. Such a survey can be very important for urban planning purposes, for civil defense aims, and, generally speaking, to better know how the territory is used. In Italy, it is impossible to use the existing administrative housing stock database for any statistical purposes, because the database units are based on the legal concept of ownership.

ISTAT is already working to build the basis for future censuses, which will be progressively based on registers. In 2001, the direct enumeration will be enriched and partially innovated through the implementation of CENSUS2000, the territorial database of ISTAT for the year 2000 round of censuses. In fact, the lack of official maps to be used for statistical purposes pushed ISTAT to launch the CENSUS project in 1991, with the aim of designing its own geographical databases. The main challenge for the 2001 Census is to redefine and reduce in size census sections in extra-urban areas and to integrate all of the censuses' territorial bases (including agriculture).

The objective of assuring a high level of quality for census data implies the choice of a comprehensive "strategy for quality" and of new methodological approaches, taking into account the most recent technological changes. Data quality issues are mainly related to fieldwork, data processing, and dissemination.

For the 2001 Census, the method of collecting census data continues to be based on the traditional use of census questionnaires, which are home delivered by about 100,000 designated enumerators.

A strong effort is being made by ISTAT in preparing and organizing Census operations, which will be centrally monitored, in each distinct phase, especially using computer networks and web facilities.

The hard work of revising and summarizing data, performed by the statistical offices of municipalities, will be simplified and aided by computers. Programs can easily be run to checking calculations and the coherence of provisional data to be sent to the Central Census Office.

Regarding data processing, ISTAT is considering the adoption of innovative technologies for data capture and coding. In particular, ISTAT conducted a successful experiment (in a first pilot survey) of scanning forms, optical mark and character recognition (OMR and OCR), and automatic and assisted coding.

These innovations will, of course--if definitively adopted--have important consequences for the data collection methodology.

The scanning of Census forms will completely change the organization of the work. The images of each page of a form can replace physical forms and be used for both automatic and clerical interface. Millions of paper forms will not have to be stored any more, and storage costs can be cut.

The recognition process, by which ticks and write-in responses are captured and then transformed to electronic data, will save the clerical work of data entry and allow a higher data quality. In some cases, when ticks cannot be recognized through OMR or text through OCR, the recognition process

will be completed by clerical workers keying from the image.

Text captured through OCR will be passed through an automatic coding process. Experts will clerically code responses that cannot be automatically coded. Automatic coding should remove from the municipalities' statistical offices the burden of complex coding operations, as in the past Census, allowing them to concentrate their efforts on the data collection step.

Regarding data processing, a large relational database is being prepared to assure the integrity and consistency of the data processes. The validation of data editing and imputation will be largely automated, using both stochastic and deterministic approaches to assure coherent final data.

One of the important aspects of data quality is timeliness. To ensure that Census information is quickly available, the aim of ISTAT is to disseminate preliminary first outputs on the web. In addition to the standard presentation of results through tabulations, a data warehouse will be built to release final data to customers.



### **The U.S. Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation (A.C.E.) Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing Experience**

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#### **Introduction**

The Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation (A.C.E.) measured coverage of the population by the U.S. Census 2000. It was a post-enumeration survey in the classic sense: After the census was complete, the A.C.E. interview was undertaken at housing units in sampled blocks across the Nation. The interviews established who lived in these housing

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<sup>1</sup> The author was project manager for the A.C.E. survey and works in the Decennial Statistical Studies Division at the U.S. Census Bureau. This paper reports the results of research and analysis undertaken by Census Bureau staff. It has undergone a Census Bureau review more limited in scope than that given to official Census Bureau publications. This report is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion of work in progress.

units on census day and basically replicated the census questions.

These A.C.E. interviews were then matched with the census interviews within the sampled blocks. The matching exercise indicated the number of people missed and the number of people erroneously enumerated in the census. This allowed the Census Bureau to compute estimates of the coverage of Census 2000 using dual system estimation.

Census day was April 1, 2000; under U.S. law, the coverage estimates had to be produced by the end of March, 2001. This was a very short time in which to take a census and conduct the A.C.E. survey. Therefore, we used laptop computers and a computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) to expedite the A.C.E. survey and capture data from it. The sample was huge: about 314,000 housing units.

First, we tried to interview by telephone some people who had returned their census questionnaires early. Then, after the census was complete in a given area, we commenced in-person A.C.E. interviewing using laptop computers. To meet the deadline, the interviewing for sample housing units had to be completed in 6 weeks.<sup>2</sup>

The results of laptop interviewing were good. First of all, the software worked well with only a few minor bugs. The hardware did its job impeccably. In addition, the staff and facilities set up to accommodate logistics and troubleshooting very adequately handled problems that were encountered.

This article focuses on our experiences in producing the CAPI interview for the A.C.E. We discuss software development and testing and describe the hardware and supporting systems.

## Software

We began the effort to produce software for the A.C.E. interview/instrument in 1994. We had upcoming opportunities to test our product in the field: The U.S. Census Bureau had census tests in

1995 and 1996 and a dress rehearsal for Census 2000 in 1998. We needed all of these tests to produce error-free software for the census.

Our first instrument, developed for the 1995 census test, worked but did not collect the definitive information we needed. In hindsight, our problem was that we relied too much on very small pilot tests and subsequent debriefings with interviewers from those pilot tests. That is, our sample size of interviewers and experience was just too small.

On the other hand, it is probably impossible to develop a foolproof instrument in one iteration. We continued with the 1995 census test software through the 1996 census test. At this point, we determined that a major revision was in order. The revision involved the following activities:

- ◆ Taping interviews with respondents during the 1996 census test and behavior coding their responses to find out what questions were causing respondents trouble;
- ◆ Using the behavior coding results to rewrite the basic instrument;
- ◆ Adding a new section to collect information on “in-movers”—people who had moved into a residence since census day<sup>3</sup>;
- ◆ Adding an interview for proxy respondents—people who responded on behalf of census day residents whom we were unable to contact;
- ◆ Creating a telephone version that included a battery of questions to make sure the respondent was answering for the correct housing unit;
- ◆ Adding a quality assurance interview to the instrument; and
- ◆ Adding a Spanish language version of the interview.

All the while, other programmers were building case management software in which the A.C.E. interview would be nested. The case management software controlled each interviewer's assignment and allowed sample housing units to be added or deleted from an enumerator's workload.

The case management software and the instrument software were integrated for the April 1998 dress rehearsal. They worked well together. After the dress rehearsal, we made some wording revisions

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<sup>2</sup> Personal interviewing began on a flow basis as soon as the census was complete in any particular sample area. After 6 weeks of interviewing, an additional 2 weeks were allotted to finish a very careful, thorough quality assurance procedure and convert nonrespondents to respondents.

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<sup>3</sup> Recall that we tried to interview the census day housing unit residents. If they could not be found, in-movers often provided good proxy information.

and began the long and laborious process of testing the instrument, the case management software, and the telecommunications and data processing systems to ensure successful implementation for Census 2000. We did not have very long to refine the questions. We “froze” the instrument at the end of September, 1998 so that testing could commence.

The A.C.E. instrument itself was very complex. It included interviews directed to specific types of respondents—for instance, proxy respondents or in-movers. Additionally, within each type of interview certain questions and answers sent the software to specific question modules. For instance, a positive reply to the question “Do you own a second home?” sent the software to a module of questions to determine the household’s census day residence. These tangents were referred to as “paths” within the instrument. There were numerous “types” of interviews and different paths within each type, comprising a complex route through the instrument. These paths were grouped; each required testing. We hired contractors to accomplish this large task.

The instrument then had to be integrated into the case management system (which had undergone its own path testing). After this integration, we began systems testing to make sure different systems fit together. In the testing arena, each new system—specifically, case management, telecommunications, data storage, and data processing—brought its own management problems.

## Hardware

We required a large supply of laptops (9,000) that were light, had a screen that was easily readable even in bright sunlight, would work in reasonably extreme weather, and would not stop functioning in the event of rain. Because many interviews would be conducted on the doorstep, with the interviewer holding the laptop, weight and screen readability were priorities (although we were never satisfied with any laptop’s screen visibility in bright sunlight).

After choosing a type of laptop to purchase, we hired a contractor to perform the following functions:

- ◆ Receive the laptops and peripheral hardware;
- ◆ Load the software;

- ◆ Pack and deploy the laptops;
- ◆ Ensure their quality; and
- ◆ Repair and replace broken items.

The contractor sent laptop kits to the field. Each laptop was packed with its peripherals and other items necessary for interviewing and downloading. This contractual arrangement worked very well.

Interviewers were asked to use their telephones (or one in the local office) to download completed cases each night. The software was set up to dial at a certain time during the night, download completed cases, and receive new cases. The telecommunications software was designed with redundancy and fault tolerance features. It provided a safe file transfer process with four levels of security.

To incorporate these telecommunications systems, we undertook another level of testing. Each testing stage had two phases: an initial phase to see if the software performed to specifications and a final phase using the exact hardware that was to be used in the field. Our large systems tests each included functionality testing of the software, load testing to see if the systems could accommodate the workload, and a final test to see if the hardware and software could withstand predicted stresses and still function with appropriate speed.

During implementation, security of the laptops was a primary concern. Each user was assigned a telecommunications license and a login password. These were checked with each transmission; if the license or password was incorrect, the transmission ended. The individual interviews were protected by encryption software and password protected. The security arrangements worked well.

Finally, we decentralized troubleshooting as much as possible and implemented a hierarchical process in an effort to guarantee that every software and hardware problem would be resolved. Each person in the process was trained appropriately and had reference materials at his/her disposal. Some of the training was undertaken on a computer-based training module installed on the laptops. A support function was set up at headquarters, with software to track every problem and its solution.

## Conclusions

Our laptops and software worked well. We completed the interviews within the allotted time and delivered high-quality data. All of our testing paid off. In the days before the laptops and software were to be activated, the testers reported that, "Oh, yes, they'll work fine." Such reports were very welcome—a credit to the teams who had planned, tested, and implemented this program.

Multiple systems and hardware all fit together well. Again, the integration testing paid off. Specifically, we were able to deploy, service and recover close to 100 percent of the laptops; only 10 were lost. The laptops performed well, with 3 percent requiring repair by the contractor. Our interviewers were trained well on the laptops and had few problems; however, when they did, the troubleshooting also worked well. The references at the end of this article provide further information about this experiment.

## Lessons Learned

Our experiences taught us the following lessons about conducting a survey of this size and complexity:

- ◆ At least two iterations or major revisions must be accommodated.
- ◆ Testing and software engineering principles must be followed carefully.
- ◆ Software must be frozen early to accommodate testing and deployment.
- ◆ Good communication in and between development teams is mandatory.

## References

"Census 2000 Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation Computer Assisted Interview," Tommy Wright, Census 2000 Procedures and Operations Memorandum Series, S-QD-02, March, 2000.

"Automating the Census 2000 Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation Field Operations," Nola Krasko, Judith Dawson, Howard Prouse, presented at the 2001 Joint Statistical Meetings of the American Statistical Association.



## Inter-Departmental Transfer of the U.S. Census of Agriculture Yields Successful Results

Rich Allen, Associate Administrator  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Introduction

The responsibility for the periodic censuses of agriculture in the United States was transferred from the U.S. Department of Commerce to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) only 2 months prior to mailout of the 1997 Census of Agriculture questionnaires. One of the key advantages of the switch was the use of the State Statistical Office (SSO) infrastructure that existed at USDA. Responsibilities were shifted to take advantage of this new infrastructure, while retaining the established census procedures in the interest of saving time and resources. Using the new approaches, results from the 1997 Census of Agriculture were available almost a year earlier than normally expected. This article describes these new approaches and the actual results obtained when responsibility for the census was transferred.

## Background

Agricultural censuses have been conducted in the United States since 1840. Until 1920, they were conducted every 10 years, in conjunction with the decennial census of population. The first mid-decade agricultural census took place in 1925, and these censuses have been conducted approximately every 5 years ever since. More recently, the agricultural census has collected data for years ending in 2 and 7, matching the timing of other U.S. economic censuses.

Since 1969, the agricultural census had been a mailout/mail back data collection, conducted by the Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce. In 1997, in response to anticipated budget reductions, the Bureau of the Census announced tentative plans to change the definition of a farm from an operation with \$1,000 in sales to one with \$10,000 in sales (which would have eliminated about half of all U.S. farms). In addition, the Bureau planned to discontinue censuses in outlying areas of the United States (Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern



Mariana Islands) and all follow-on data collections (horticultural and irrigation censuses).

A quick and demonstrative reaction to the proposed change in the farm definition was heard from USDA and the state departments of agriculture (some states would have lost up to 80 percent of their farms), elected lawmakers, and agricultural and rural data analysts. This reaction led the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to suggest transferring responsibility for the Census of Agriculture to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), effective October 1997. NASS had a national network of SSOs and over 130 years of experience surveying farmers.

### **Questionnaires**

The Census of Agriculture collects a wide variety of information. All operators are asked questions on land ownership; crops produced, including fruits, vegetables, and horticultural specialties; value of crops produced; area of the farm not currently in crops; livestock production; government farm program participation; direct market sales; farm labor; organizational structure; and farm operator demographics. A sample of operations receive extra questions on farm expenditures, machinery, and land value.

The only changes from the 1992 to the 1997 questionnaire were those already planned to standardize farm definitions between NASS and the Bureau of the Census: (1) If a farm converted all of its cropland to a long-term farm program and received payments for not growing crops, that operation would be considered a farm if normal production value met the \$1,000 definition; (2) if equine stock were the only livestock on a farm, NASS would award equivalent value points for pasture; and (3) if an operation produced Christmas trees as the only cash crop, it would be considered a farm if it met the dollar limit.

### **Mail List**

Since the United States does not have an agricultural register, it has been necessary to construct a mail list for each agricultural census. The main list sources for the 1997 census were the 1992 census mail file, the NASS list sampling frame, and lists of individuals filing a farm income tax return. A few specialty lists, such as horticulture

interests, were also used. Nearly 9.1 million name and address records were assembled to build the 1997 census mail list. The list was reduced to 3.8 million unique records using record linkage routines and computations to determine the probability that an operation was a farm.

SSO operations did not reduce the mailout volume as much as had been hoped. Instead of mailing regular questionnaires to the entire remaining list, NASS conducted a lower cost screener survey ahead of the regular mailing. A simple postcard-sized inquiry was mailed to some 478,000 mail list names with the lowest predicted probability of being farms. The screener questions were used to determine whether respondents performed any agricultural activities. Any respondents not reporting such activities were taken off the mail list. Nonrespondents were contacted by telephone. All operations with some agricultural interests and all of those that did not respond by mail or telephone were mailed the full census questionnaire. In total, almost 126,000 records were excluded from the mailout.

### **Publicity**

One advantage of NASS's involvement was its capability to provide more local pre-census publicity and to attend more farm organization meetings. Many national public service announcements and publicity materials were used, but there was also a strong within-state emphasis. The increased local flavor of the publicity did pay dividends. Response rates ran ahead of comparable 1992 dates, and many individuals used the toll-free number feature to clarify questions. Many state offices followed up with special ceremonies and publications when the census results were released.

One new emphasis in 1997 was the use of the Internet for answering common questions and for providing a tie from NASS to the past census results. Internally, the agency utilized a "Stat of the Day" bulletin board to keep everyone informed of major aspects of the census, such as numbers of questionnaires received, key-entered, and edited and numbers of toll-free telephone calls received.

### **Mailing and Handling**

Even though NASS SSOs conduct many surveys each year and are experienced in survey

operations, there was no quick replacement for the special handling experience and equipment already available through the Bureau of the Census. Questionnaires for the 1997 census came from the printer already in envelopes. Special equipment was used to print names and addresses, as well as bar codes for improved accounting of returned questionnaires.

In addition to questionnaire receipt control, the Census performed data entry operations. With a goal of speeding up data availability by almost 1 full year, NASS contracted for two key-entry shifts, 6 days a week, to enter data fast enough to speed up other operations. State office personnel, working on short temporary duty assignments, supplemented the small Census Division staff to keep up on the editing.

### **Telephone Assistance**

One key to NASS's improved customer service and faster processing was providing toll-free telephone assistance throughout the data collection process. Many individuals, including part-time interviewers, were trained in each SSO to handle the large volumes of calls after the original mailing and each followup mailing. This effort sped up the flow of questionnaires, identified many out-of-scope operations that did not need followup mailings, and identified operations that had received multiple questionnaires.

Over 130,000 toll-free calls were received. In most cases, action could be taken while the caller was still on the line. The telephone plans were extremely successful. All toll-free calls were originally routed to the office serving the respondent's state. On weekends—and later, as calls decreased—it was possible to route calls from several states to one location.

Being able to provide a quick, definitive answer was surely a factor in decreasing the number of people who contacted their elected officials to complain about the census. The number of letters received from elected officials was only half of those received in 1992.

### **Survey Coordination**

Because the 1997 Census of Agriculture was mailed during a busy NASS survey period, three specific actions were taken:

1. NASS SSOs minimized the number of mail contacts for the annual end-of-season acreage and production surveys that are a major input to county crop estimates. This was done by eliminating "criteria" mailings to operations that had not been sampled for 3 years or more and for which updated control data were desired.
2. Many large cattle operations and some large hog operations were contacted in person to simultaneously capture data for both the end-of-year hog and cattle surveys and the census.
3. In cases where it was not possible to coordinate a census contact with NASS survey mailings, presurvey letters explained why the census and the current survey operations were both being conducted.

### **Timing and Followup**

The 1997 census was mailed in mid-December 1997. The listed completion date was February 1, 1998, but cover letters encouraged response as soon as possible. A thank you/reminder postcard was mailed to all operators in mid-January 1998. After the February 1 due date, operations that never responded in 1992 and did not respond to the first 1997 mailing were selected for telephone followup rather than the second mailing. This resulted in some unpleasant calls but did speed up the resolution of these difficult cases.

Since response rates were running higher than predicted, state offices were able to begin calling large operations and counties with lower response rates earlier than originally planned. The last planned mail inquiry was canceled because the telephone operation was performing well. Data collection had to be finished during the month of May in order to meet target summary and publication dates.

### **Telephone Interviewing**

In previous censuses, all telephone followups were done by the Census Bureau's computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) centers, which conduct a number of telephone surveys. One major 1997 change was the shift of telephone interviewing to the NASS SSOs.

CATI interviewing from individual state offices worked well. The availability of the facilities and trained telephone enumerators in so many locations made it easy to shift more contacts to the telephone. SSOs had some latitude to shift telephone followups of larger or specialized operations to personal interviews. They also tried various times of day in order to obtain the best response rates.

### **Analytic Reviews**

Since all returned questionnaires were mailed to the Census facility, the basic editing took place there. Several clerical editors were trained to review the editing outputs. NASS supplemented the three on-site statisticians during the main editing step. A number of standardized edits for yields, values per head of livestock, etc., were built in. There were also several imputation routines, such as extracting missing yields from another record of the same size farm in the same geographic area.

Once data collection was nearly complete for most counties in a state, an analytic summary was created. This summary adjusted for missing operations so a preliminary total county record could be created. This analytic summary was reviewed in each SSO, looking closely at unexplained changes in crop areas, livestock numbers, or number of operations. Comparison with the 1992 census results and subsequent NASS surveys served to identify possible errors. During the analytic review, it was possible to “drill down” to specific records if county totals seemed high or low. While most adjustments or corrections during the analytic review were made by examining the original reported data (for keying errors), it was possible to telephone respondents to verify unusual reports. Many Census Headquarters staff members were trained in analytic review procedures and were able to help state offices.

### **Summarization and NASS Historic Revision of Estimates**

In past agricultural censuses, processes concentrated on a few of the 50 states at a time; that is, the data for 2 to 4 states might all be key-entered before starting on another batch of states. (Results from earlier censuses indicated which states tended to respond quickly.) Similarly, editing, CATI telephone calls, and analytic review all

followed this state batching approach. State-level publications were also finished and published on a flow basis.

When the census was conducted centrally by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the batching made good sense. As soon as possible, specific people who were going to concentrate on editing, analysis, or summarization processes were started on their assignments. The State of Delaware, with only three counties and about 3,000 farms, was normally processed through all activities first, as a production level test. In 1997, however, NASS wanted to involve all SSOs in all operations. Once the first edit, analysis, and other outputs had been created and checked for a few states, these products were released to each SSO for its work.

NASS decided to conduct its 5-year historic review and revision of all estimates since the 1992 Census of Agriculture before the 1997 census data had been published, or were even final. For these reviews, which started in late November 1998, the preliminary tabulated census results and all preliminary coverage evaluation results were compiled at the state and national levels. These indications were then interpreted in light of past census-NASS current estimates relationships and all intervening survey indications. NASS utilized its traditional “top down” analytic approach and set national targets for revisions instead of starting with decisions for each state and adding up.

In almost all cases, any necessary revisions for the intervening 5-year period (which included the 1997 crop year and January 1, 1998, livestock numbers) were released at least 1 week before the corresponding 1998 end-of-season data reports were published. The goal was to enable data users to correctly interpret 1998 data rather than having census data, released in February 1999, changing any analysis models.

### **Publications**

NASS was actually able to release all 12,000 national, state, and county data files electronically on the same day. This required a very well-defined database structure and considerable work to create all of the specific selection parameters. In addition to the regular data tables, state and county “profiles” and “highlights” were ready. Those consisted of one- or two-page summaries of

appropriately selected key items, with some graphic comparisons to earlier censuses.

All data were available electronically on the Internet, but the CD-ROM products were not released until after the paper publications were finished. This delay was due to extensive testing of the CD-ROM prototype, which included new search and look-up features, before copies were pressed for sale. The month-long time lag also allowed NASS to correct any data problems that were noticed when the electronic files were released.

NASS reviewed all additional coverage evaluation data and was able to include an expanded comparison table in the state-level printed publications. However, the agency decided not to create a separate table showing "adjusted" census totals for a wide range of variables. It was felt that this table would create additional confusion rather than clarifying the difference between census tabulations and official estimates.

### **Future Plans**

NASS has merged the additional names and addresses from the census mail list with its former list frame. Since this combined list provides expanded coverage of small operations, NASS is carefully evaluating the increase in list coverage and the calculated change in non-overlap estimates. The agency is actually modeling what indications would have been without the additional names.

NASS has taken a broader look at questionnaire content for the expected 2002 census, particularly in light of many structural changes occurring in U.S. agriculture. There will also be a new emphasis on the role of women in agriculture by allowing for shared or multiple operatorships. NASS used a very wide-ranging approach to judge data needs and priorities for the 2002 Census of Agriculture. One factor was opinions from NASS's (formerly the Bureau of the Census's) Agricultural Statistics Advisory Committee.

NASS developed specifications for new programs that can meet both census and current survey needs. However, the agency also explored alternatives for contracting for software (e.g., for disclosure review) from the Bureau of the Census. Custom-tailored questionnaires were considered for

2002. In light of all necessary priorities, such as agency restructuring, new processing systems, and content improvements, customization will not be feasible.

If data warehousing efforts are successful, it should be possible to utilize more previously reported operations data in conducting the 2002 census. More data will be available, at a minimum, for editing, but it may also be possible to use data to identify specific operations for telephone or personal contacts, or to tailor future questionnaires.





*We are very pleased to welcome the following new members.*

**Algeria**

NACER-EDDINE HAMMOUDA

**Caiman Islands**

BRYAN BOXILL

**Cameroon**

TIMOTHEE AYISSI

**Central African Republic**

ANATOLE BRUNO POSSITI

**Democratic Republic of Congo**

LEON KODIOBO KADIOBO

**Finland**

MARKKU LINQUIST

PASI PIELA

**France**

PHILIPPE NANOPOULOS

AURELIA SAUREL

**Ghana**

CAROLINE ADJEI

HANNAH ADJEI

**Guatemala**

ROBERTO MOLINA-CRUZ

**Guinea**

LANSANA BAYO

**India**

SHUKLA DIWAKAR

MR. JOSE

**Ivory Coast**

MATENIN COULIBALY

KANGAH EUGENE KOUAME

ISSOUFFE KOUYATE

**Mali**

ELOI OUEDRAOGO

**Mauritania**

MOHAMEDY OULD SAMORY

**Mexico**

PATRICIA AGRAZ

MARTIN FELIX-MEDINA

ELSA RESANO

**Nigeria**

KOLAPO OSMAN

**Palestine**

ABDULHAKEEM EIDEH

**Poland**

JERZY GAJEWSKY

MARCIN SKIBICKI

**Rwanda**

JEAN-BAPTISTE NYARWAYA

**Sao Tome-and-Principe**

JOSE CARLOS RIBEIRO

**Spain**

SILVIA GONZALES-AGUILERA

**Uganda**

ALFRED KURONG LABU

**United Kingdom**

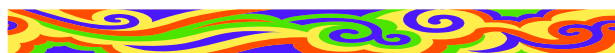
KARINE BARBERIS

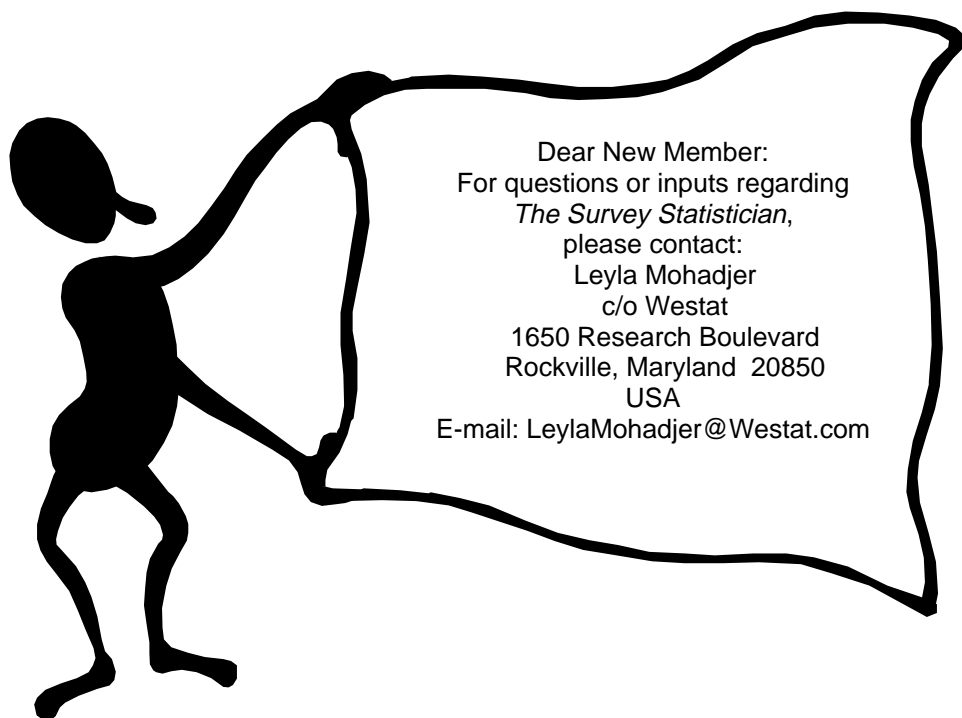
DOROTHY CURRIE

**United States**

MEEHYUNG CHO

CHRISTIAN COLLET

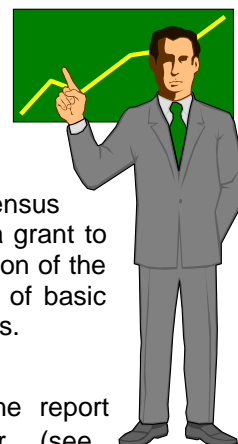




#### **To All Members**

The IASS needs your contribution. Please do not forget to renew your membership. Starting in January 2002, French Francs will no longer be used; as a consequence, the two currencies in which bank checks can be accepted for the payment of dues or subscriptions are Euros and US dollars, instead of French Francs and US dollars.

# REPORTS



## Minutes of the IASS General Meeting Seoul, August 23, 2001 Christophe Lefranc, Executive Director

The General Meeting was chaired by Xavier Charoy, president-elect. He conveyed the regrets of the current president, Kirk Wolter, who was forced to cancel his trip to Seoul because of a recent accident.

### 1. Tribute to Leslie Kish

Graham Kalton and Colm O'Muircheartaigh paid tribute to the memory of Leslie Kish, former president of the IASS (1983-85), who died in late 2000. Those in attendance observed a minute of silence.

### 2. President's Report

In recognition of their contribution to the smooth functioning of the IASS and its activities, Xavier Charoy thanked the following institutions:

- ◆ INSEE (Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques, France), which provides office space and services for the IASS and prints and disseminates the membership directory and the French version of the *Survey Statistician*,
- ◆ the ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics), which prints and disseminates the English version of the *Survey Statistician*, the proceedings of meetings staged by the IASS during sessions of the ISI as well as other documents prepared in connection with IASS activities,
- ◆ Statistics Canada, which provides the translations needed in order to prepare the English and French versions of the *Survey Statistician*,
- ◆ Westat, which helps produce the *Survey Statistician*,
- ◆ The United Nations, which awarded scholarships enabling statisticians from developing countries to take the courses provided by the IASS before the ISI session,
- ◆ the publisher John Wiley and Sons, which agreed to make a major gift of books to the winner of the Cochran-Hansen Prize,

- ◆ the United States Census Bureau, which provided a grant to the IASS for the preparation of the jubilee book, a collection of basic articles on survey statistics.

Xavier Charoy then read the report prepared by Kirk Wolter (see attached report).

### 3. Report of the Scientific Secretary

Daniel Kasprzyk, scientific secretary, presented his report, which focused in particular on the preparation of the courses organized by the IASS in conjunction with the Seoul Session of the ISI (see attached report).

### 4. Report of the Chair of the Program Committee

David Binder, chair of the Program Committee for the Seoul Session of the ISI, presented his report on the activities that led to the organization of the scientific meetings proposed by the IASS, possibly in association with other sections of the ISI or other bodies (see attached report).

### 5. Report of the Chair of the Nominations Committee

This agenda item was not dealt with, since Nominations Committee chair Cathryn Dippo was absent and her report was unavailable.

### 6. Report of the Chair of the Jury for the Cochran-Hansen Prize

Xavier Charoy read the report prepared by Susan Linacre, chair of the Cochran-Hansen Prize jury, who was unable to attend the IASS General Meeting. He congratulated Kristiina Rajaleid, winner of the prize for 2001.

### 7. Report of the Executive Director

Christophe Lefranc, executive director, presented his report on the activities of the IASS Secretariat (see attached report).

In response to this item, the ISI Permanent Office, speaking through the president of the ISI, congratulated the IASS Secretariat for the improvements made to its operations in the past two years.

## 8. Decisions Taken by the Council

Xavier Charoy briefly described the main decisions taken by the Council at its meeting of August 23 in Seoul, primarily concerning the IASS publications program (see attached minutes).

## 9. Other Business

The discussion concerned the *Survey Statistician*, the IASS newsletter and communications link. In particular, there was a discussion on whether to continue to distribute the printed version to all IASS members or to set up a system whereby members no longer wishing to receive the printed version would be notified by e-mail that a new issue was available online. The matter of making the English and French versions available online simultaneously was also raised.



**Report of the IASS President  
Kirk Wolter  
July 5, 2001**

## Transitions

During the period since the Helsinki session, IASS has had two major staff transitions. Christophe Lefranc (INSEE) assumed the duties of IASS Executive Director, replacing Benoit Riandey, while Leyla Mohadjer and Jairo Arrow became co-editors of the organization's newsletter (the *Survey Statistician*), replacing Mike Brick. Christophe, Leyla, and Jairo have done marvelous work right from the start in their new posts; we are extremely fortunate to have them as part of our management team. On behalf of all members, I wish to express a hardy "thank you" to Benoit and Mike for a job well done.

## Association Issues

President Elect Xavier Charoy led a project, in collaboration with staff of the ISI permanent office, to overhaul the IASS membership database. The new Excel database was operational as of the end of 2000 and is synchronized with the ISI membership database maintained in Voorburg.

Xavier Charoy also led an effort to establish a new administrative manual for the association's officers. The manual outlines the duties and responsibilities of each officer and provides a kind of "corporate memory" for the association. Future officers should find the manual invaluable as they begin to tackle their new assignments.

## Publications

IASS celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Helsinki session and, as part of the celebration, undertook development of two jubilee volumes to commemorate major advances in our field of science. The first volume—*Influential Papers in Survey Statistics* (500 pages)—was defined by a committee led by Gad Nathan, appointed during the term of Past President Nanjamma Chinnappa. Fritz Scheuren and Mike Brick, together with generous support from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, produced the book, which should ship to members at around the time of the Seoul session. Lars Lyberg is chairing the committee to define the second volume, tentatively titled *Influential Papers in Survey Methodology*. This committee anticipates completing its work later this year.

New co-editors Leyla Mohadjer and Jairo Arrow developed and implemented an attractive new cover and format for the *Survey Statistician*.

Fred Vogel was named editor of the association's website. Working with the ISI webmaster in Voorburg, Fred has begun making additions and improvements to the IASS homepage.

## Conferences

The IASS has cosponsored or planned a number of conferences over the last 2 years:

- ◆ The International Conference on Establishment Surveys-II, held in June 2000 in Buffalo, New York. For information concerning the availability of the proceedings of the conference, contact



John Kovar (Statistics Canada) at Kovar@statcan.ca. The IASS sponsored travel grants for attendees from transition countries at this conference.

- ◆ The 4th Conference on Methodological Issues in Official Statistics, held October 12-13, 2000, at Statistics Sweden (Anders Christianson, anders.christianson@scb.se, was program chair).
- ◆ The International Conference on Data Quality in Official Statistics, held May 14-15, 2001, in Stockholm, Sweden (Lars Lyberg, lars.lyberg@scb.se, was program chair).
- ◆ The IASC-IASS Joint European Summer School on "Knowledge Discovery & Large Surveys: Design and Analysis," held June 18-30, 2001, on the Island of Capri and hosted by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of Naples (Vincent Esposito, binci@unina.it, was the course director).
- ◆ The International Seminar on Methods for Household Sample Surveys, held June 25-27, 2001, in Rio de Janeiro by the Brazilian Central Statistical Office and the Interamerican Statistical Institute with the sponsorship of the IASS; contact Pedro Silva (pedrosilva@ibge.go.br) for information.
- ◆ The International Conference on Improving Surveys, to be held August 25-28, 2002, in Copenhagen (Hans Bay, hb@sfi.dk, is the program chair).
- ◆ The International Conference on Questionnaire Development, Evaluation, and Testing, to be held November 13-17, 2002. For information, contact Jennifer Rothgeb at jennifer.m.rothgeb@census.gov.

## 2001 Cochran-Hansen Prize

IASS established this award for the best paper on survey research methods submitted by a young statistician from a developing or transition country. The winner of the 2001 prize is Kristiina Rajaleid (Estonia) for her paper "On the Order Sampling Design." Thanks to Susan Linacre for chairing the 2001 Cochran-Hansen jury. To open the 2003 competition to a wider range of candidates, the association is raising the age limit to 40 years.

## Short Courses

The IASS sponsored five short courses prior to the Seoul session:

1. Workshop on Survey Sampling, held on August 18-20, 2001, and presented by Graham Kalton (Westat) and Colm O' Muirheartaigh (NORC).
2. Variance Estimation in Complex Surveys, held on August 20-22, 2001, and presented by Wayne Fuller (Iowa State University), Kirk Wolter (NORC), F. Jay Breidt (Iowa State University), Jae-Kwang Kim (Westat).
3. Introduction to Small Area Estimation, held on August 20-22, 2001, and presented by J.N.K. Rao (Carleton University).
4. Nonsampling Error Research, held on August 20-22, 2001, and presented by Clyde Tucker (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).
5. Editing and Imputation of Survey Data, held on August 20-22, 2001, and presented by John G. Kovar (Statistics Canada) and Eric Rancourt (Statistics Canada).

## Program Committees

The IASS program for the 53rd Session of the ISI in Seoul (August 22-29, 2001) was finalized by David Binder (binddav@statcan.ca), chair of the IASS program committee. The committee identified 13 sessions: 7 sessions were solely organized by IASS, 4 sessions were joint sessions for which IASS was the primary organizer, and 2 sessions were joint sessions for which IAOS was the primary organizer. The association's program for the Berlin session is undergoing development under the leadership of Danny Pfeffermann (chair of the 2003 program committee).

## Elections

IASS elections were held earlier this year. Congratulations to our new executives Luigi Biggeri (president elect), David Binder (vice president), Anders Christianson (vice president), and Seppo Laaksonen (scientific secretary). The association is indebted to Cathy Dippo, who chaired this year's nominations committee.



## Report of the IASS Scientific Secretary Daniel Kasprzyk August 2001

The main duties of the IASS Scientific Secretary are associated with the short courses offered at the time of the ISI meetings. Other activities of the

Scientific Secretary are associated with IASS co-sponsorship of other conferences, occasionally being the point of contact for the association.

### **IASS Short Courses**

The IASS sponsored five short courses prior to the 2001 ISI meetings:

1. Workshop on Survey Sampling, held on August 18, 19, and 20, 2001, and presented by Graham Kalton (Westat) and Colm O' Muircheartaigh (NORC); 94 students registered for the course.
2. Variance Estimation in Complex Surveys, held on August 20, 21, and 22, 2001, and presented by Wayne Fuller (Iowa State University), Kirk Wolter (NORC), F. Jay Breidt (Iowa State University), and Jae-Kwang Kim (Westat); 32 students registered for the course.
3. Introduction to Small Area Estimation, held on August 20, 21, and 22, 2001, and presented by J.N.K. Rao (Carleton University); 23 students registered for the course.
4. Nonsampling Error Research, held on August 20, 21, and 22, 2001, and presented by Clyde Tucker (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics); 33 students registered for the course.
5. Editing and Imputation of Survey Data, held on August 20, 21, and 22, 2001, and presented by John G. Kovar (Statistics Canada) and Eric Rancourt (Statistics Canada); 43 students registered for the course.

All courses were held in Seoul, Korea's, Convention and Exhibition Center (COEX), the site of the 53rd meeting of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). The COEX, opened in 2000, is the largest state-of-the-art convention center in Korea. The COEX provides a full range of services for international conferences and exhibitions and offers the advantage of having the short courses at the same venue as the ISI meetings.

The Scientific Secretary was introduced to Dr. Kay-O Lee, the Korean statistician who would be the main contact for all matters related to presenting the IASS short courses. Dr. Lee is a Professor at the Korea Air Force Academy and Vice-President of the Korean Statistical Society, a member of the Korean Local Program Committee, and a member of the Executive Committee of the National Organizing Committee. Discussions took place throughout the planning period about courses, course fees, location of the short courses, socials for the short courses, instructors' audio-visual

requirements, PC requirements, and availability of the course notes.

Budgets were prepared, course rates were established, and expenses were estimated.

The short courses were announced in the Bulletin 1 and 2, the Survey Statistician, and the ISI Newsletter.

Brochures describing the courses, fees, registration forms, and other information were produced in bilingual format (French/English). These were distributed to IASS members, heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs), country representatives, and a mailing list held by Statistics Sweden. Thanks are due to Statistics Canada, and to John Kovar in particular, for handling the French translation. Two thousand brochures were sent to Libourne. Thanks to the IASS administrative office for handling the member, NSO, and country representative mailouts; thanks to Statistics Sweden for including the brochure as part of a conference mail out. The brochure was posted to the IASS home page in pdf format, but on-line registrations were not possible. In the future, discussions will be necessary concerning the bilingual format of the course brochure (all courses have been taught in English for the past few years) and the extent of the short course outreach to students (this depends on criteria used to award travel grants).

Books for courses A and B were acquired for distribution to the registered students. Graham Kalton and Kirk Wolter obtained significant discounts on the price of the books. All bills were sent to the Scientific Secretary, who used the IASS credit card and then reimbursed IASS.

Class notes were prepared by the instructors. John Kovar and Eric Rancourt made necessary copies and shipped them to Seoul; the bulk of the copies were sent to the Korean office organizing the ISI meeting arrangements, and an additional two copies went to Dr. Kay-O Lee, the Korean Local Organizer handling the details of the short course preparations in Seoul. Other instructors sent their notes to the Scientific Secretary, who made the required copies and shipped them to Seoul. These class notes were distributed at the short courses.

The Scientific Secretary obtained approvals to copy articles from journals.

E-mail addresses were obtained for most course registrants. These addresses are essential for communicating with interested students. The pre-registered applicants came from the following countries: Korea, the Philippines, Ecuador, Gambia, Nigeria, Armenia, New Guinea, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, the Slovak Republic, Benin, Zambia, Chad, Indonesia, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States, Sweden, China, Australia, Norway, New Zealand, and Nepal.

The number of registered applicants from Korea, the host country, was unusually large due to an energetic recruitment by Dr. Kay-O Lee.

The United Nations Statistics Division sponsored travel grants to the ISI meetings and the short courses. Statisticians are eligible to be considered for travel grants if they are employed by NSOs in countries that are members of the United Nations and are considered transitional or developing. The United Nations Statistics Division sponsored 19 such grants for the short courses at the Seoul meetings. Thanks are due to the United Nations Statistics Division for its gracious generosity in support of the short courses. The Asian Development Bank sponsored three travel grants to the courses and the ISI meetings. Thanks to the Asian Development Bank for its support.

The IASS supported the travel of the Cochran-Hansen Award recipient to attend the ISI meetings and the short courses.

Many thanks are due to the local Korean organizers, particularly Dr. Kay-O Lee, for securing the facilities, classrooms, and PCs and for sponsoring "welcome socials." The local organizers were very supportive and helpful throughout the planning period and greatly facilitated the work of the Scientific Secretary. Dr. Young-Won Kim, a Professor at Sookmyung University, provided substantial on-site support, assisting with software and having his statistics students help with logistics and administrative details.

Thanks are due to the short course instructors and their employers for the time given to prepare course outlines, lecture notes, and course materials. Instructors receive no remuneration and are only compensated for expenses incurred during the days in which the short courses are given.

Outstanding instructors are a key element of the success of the short courses. The IASS is grateful for their willingness to teach these courses.

Evaluation forms and certificates of course completion were prepared; name badges and marker pens were purchased.

The names of new IASS members who joined as a result of IASS short course registration were sent to Libourne.

### **IASS Sponsorship of Conferences**

The IASS has cosponsored a number of conferences over the last two years:

- ◆ The International Conference on Nonresponse in Surveys, held in October 1999 in Portland, Oregon. The IASS was a financial sponsor (\$5,000) of this conference. Approximately 550 people attended the conference.
- ◆ The International Conference on Establishment Surveys-II, held in June 2000 in Buffalo, New York. About 475 people from 35 countries attended. The IASS was a financial sponsor (\$5,000) of this conference. For information concerning the availability of the conference proceedings, contact John Kovar (Statistics Canada) at Kovar@statcan.ca. The IASS sponsored one travel grant for a Polish statistician.
- ◆ The Second Francophone Conference on Sampling, held in Brussels on June 22-23, 2000.
- ◆ The 4<sup>th</sup> Conference on Methodological Issues in Official Statistics, held October 12-13, 2000, at Statistics Sweden (Anders Christianson, anders.christianson@scb.se, was program chair); there were 145 participants from 11 countries. The proceedings are available at <http://www.scb.se/omscb/proceedings.asp>.
- ◆ The IASC-IASS Joint European Summer School on "Knowledge Discovery & Large Surveys: Design and Analysis," held June 18-30, 2001, on the Island of Capri and hosted by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of Naples (Vincent Esposito, binci@unina.it, was the course director); sixty-eight applications were received, from which 40 were accepted. Half the attendees were from Italy, and the remainder came from 13 different countries (mostly European countries and Mexico and Chile). IASS sponsored two scholarships covering registration fees and accommodations (approximately \$1,500).

- ◆ The International Seminar on Methods for Household Sample Surveys, held June 25-27, 2001, in Rio de Janeiro by the Brazilian Central Statistical Office and the Interamerican Statistical Institute with the sponsorship of the IASS; contact Pedro Silva (pedrosilva@ibge.go.br) for information.
- ◆ The International Conference on Improving Surveys, to be held August 25-28, 2002, in Copenhagen (Hans Bay, hb@sfi.dk, is the program chair).
- ◆ The Third Francophone Conference on Sampling, to be held October 17-18, 2002, in Grenoble, France (for more information, contact Benoit Riandey, riandey@ined.fr).
- ◆ The International Conference on Questionnaire Development, Evaluation, and Testing, to be held November 13-17, 2002. For information, contact Jennifer Rothgeb at jennifer.m.rothgeb@census.gov. The IASS is a financial cosponsor of this conference, contributing \$5,000.

#### Cancelled Conferences

- ◆ The IASS Workshop on Labour Force Surveys, scheduled for April 2001, was cancelled because of low registration.
- ◆ The Regional Conference "Sampling Workshop in the Arab World" was cancelled.



#### Report of the 2001 Program Chair to the IASS General Assembly David Binder

Thanks are due to the many people who planned and participated in the IASS program for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the ISI. We started the process early in 1998, when a large e-mail committee consisting of 48 members was created to suggest topics and potential organizers for the Invited Paper Meetings. In addition, suggestions were solicited from the IASS membership through frequent announcements in *The Survey Statistician*. In total, we had more than 80 suggested topics, which the committee then prioritized.

At the ISI Program Co-ordinating Committee meetings in Helsinki in 1999, I successfully argued that the allocation of the number of IASS Invited

Paper Meetings in 1997 was inadequate. At that time, the IASS was involved in 11 Invited Paper Meetings, of which 4 were jointly organized with ISI, IAOS, or IASC. For the 2001 program, we were allocated 14 Invited Paper Meetings, of which 7 were jointly organized with ISI, IAOS, Korea, and Eurostat. (Subsequently, one of the joint meetings was withdrawn.)

I would like to thank those who organized and participated in the following Invited Paper Meetings. Because of a lot of dedication and commitment, we have an excellent program at these 2001 meetings. The following is a list of these meetings:

IPM18. Disclosure Control and Facilitating Access by Users (with IAOS)  
Organizer: Luigi Biggeri

IPM70. The Role of Survey Sampling in the 21st Century  
Organizer: John Cornish

IPM73. Linked Employer-Employee Data  
Organizer: Cynthia Clark

IPM74. Multilevel Models for Survey Design and Analysis  
Organizer: Chris Skinner

IPM72. Standardized Survey Interviewing: Is It a Good Thing?  
Organizer: Barbara Bailar

IPM76. Edit and Imputation Techniques  
Organizer: John Kovar

IPM71. Misclassification as Response Error in Surveys  
Organizer: Cathryn S. Dippo  
IPM19. Multiple Frame Surveys (with ISI/Korea)  
Organizer: Alvaro Gonzalez-Villalobos

IPM13. Combining Data from Different Sources (with IAOS and ISI/Eurostat)  
Organizer: Tim Holt

IPM17. Internet and Innovative Data Collection (with IAOS)  
Organizer: Warren Mitofsky

IPM75. Price/ Production Indices  
Organizer: Dennis Trewin

IPM12. Quality Programs in Statistical Agencies  
(with IAOS)

Organizer: Gordon Brackstone

IPM20. Measurement of E-Commerce (with IAOS)

Organizer: Paul Cheung

Based on the preliminary program, I summarize below the geographic balance achieved for these meetings. (I have weighted the count for each author based on the number of coauthors; for example, in the case of two coauthors, each author received a weight of 1/2.)

Authors		Discussants	
Brazil	1.7	Australia	1
Canada	2.2	Brazil	1
Finland	1	Eurostat	2
France	1	Hong Kong, China	1
Israel	1.3	Ireland	1
Italy	4	Italy	1
Japan	1	Korea	1
Korea	0.5	Netherlands	1
Netherlands	2	Singapore	1
Singapore	1	United Kingdom	1
Slovenia	1	United States	5
United Kingdom	3.8		
United States	12.5		
Total	33	Total	16

(Note that there have been some late changes to the program that are not reflected in these numbers.)

As in the past, a proceedings volume containing the longer versions of the papers from the Invited Paper Meetings will be published. We are very grateful to the Australian Bureau of Statistics for agreeing once again to produce this volume. This will be sent to all IASS members. This publication has proven to be particularly valuable for our members in the past.

Finally, I would like to mention that the IASS has successfully competed for an invited paper session at the Joint Statistical Meetings to be held in New York in August 2002. The session is on the topic of Training of Survey Statisticians, focusing on the training of professionals in methods for developing, implementing, and evaluating sample surveys. The

session is dedicated to the memory of Leslie Kish. The presenters are Graham Kalton, Jim Lepkowski, and Lars Lyberg, with Hermann Habermann as a discussant.

As a final comment, I would add that this year we took some risks by including among the Invited Paper Meetings some topics that were not necessarily well-developed. I would advocate the continuation of this approach, even if it turns out to be difficult in the end to identify presenters for such a meeting. I very much appreciate the outstanding efforts made by the meeting organizers, especially those involved in these non-mainstream topics, to ensure such an excellent program this year.



**Report of the Executive Director  
Seoul, August 23, 2001  
Christophe Lefranc**

This report deals with the activities of the Secretariat of IASS during the period between the ISI Session held in Helsinki in August 1999 and the Session held in Seoul in August 2001. During this period, the French national statistical office (INSEE) has continued to provide support for the operation of the IASS Secretariat within the INSEE Training Center in Libourne (CEFIL). This report is devoted only to the main activities for which the Secretariat is responsible and does not cover all smaller tasks, especially those in support of persons in charge of other activities in which IASS is involved.

**Persons in Charge of the Secretariat**

Benoît Riandey was Executive Director of IASS until August 2000, and I succeeded him at that time. Anne-Marie Vespa-Leyder has remained Executive Secretary, and Claude Olivier continues to run the administrative secretariat in Libourne. I thank Claude, Anne-Marie, and Benoît for their very useful work and for their attachment to IASS. In Libourne, Claude's work has been facilitated by the help of Michel Boëda and Jean-Pierre Bachelart from INSEE; I thank them warmly, particularly Jean-Pierre for his involvement in all computer matters.

## Membership

The statutes of IASS, as well as ISI rules, require that membership be terminated after 2 years of nonpayment of membership dues. As of July 31, 2001, IASS had 1,066 individual members, including 362 who have an address in developing (non-OECD) countries and 27 institutional members. The respective figures for 1999 were 1,151, 412, and 30.

## Membership Database

Since the Helsinki ISI Session, major improvements have been carried out regarding the membership database. The file has been cleaned of obsolete pieces of information as much as possible, and careful cross-checks have been made in order to ensure consistency between the IASS and ISI databases. The IASS membership database is now an Access file that can be easily converted to an Excel spreadsheet. It will be used to prepare the next directory of IASS members during the last quarter of 2001. This directory will include the addresses and telephone numbers of all IASS members in good standing as of October 1, 2001. The Secretariat also recently updated the membership application form to include information on year of birth and citizenship to permit tabulations of membership according to these criteria.

## Subscription to Scientific Journals

All IASS members are offered the opportunity to subscribe to various periodicals. Like all ISI and section members, they can subscribe to the journals published by the ISI (*International Statistical Review*, *Short Book Reviews*, *Statistical Theory and Method Abstracts*); they can also subscribe to two journals of special interest to survey statisticians, *Survey Methodology* and the *Journal of Official Statistics*. For these two journals, all IASS subscribers benefit from a special discounted rate offered by the publisher; 67 members currently take advantage of this offer for *Survey Methodology* and 35 for the *Journal of Official Statistics*. Among those, members from developing countries benefit from a further reduction of 50% that is covered directly by IASS; the numbers of such subscribers are 23 for *Survey Methodology* and 13 for the *Journal of Official Statistics*.

## Elections of IASS Officers and Council Members

After the Nominations Committee, headed by Cathryn Diplo, had selected the candidates, the Secretariat prepared and sent out materials for the 2001 election to 1,027 individual and institutional members. The counting of votes led to the election of one President-elect, two Vice-Presidents, one Scientific Secretary, and six Council members, whose names appear in the enclosed document.

## Finance

A new software package was bought at the end of 2000 to help register all transactions and prepare accounts. IASS accounts were prepared by Benoît Riandey for 1999 and 2000 and by François Fabre for the first semester of 2001. A recapitulative table is enclosed. Expenditures largely surpassed income in 1999, as the ISI Helsinki Session and related activities generated important expenses, particularly in relation to the IASS jubilee, the Riga satellite conference, and the establishment of the Cochran-Hansen prize; however, the short courses organized in conjunction with the ISI Session were highly profitable. In 2000, a much smaller amount of expenditures (with only one sponsored conference) and a sizeable income generated by membership dues resulted in a positive balance. Figures shown for the first semester of 2001 do not provide a clear view of what to expect for the whole year, as they account for only a few transactions related to the Seoul ISI Session. However, the small amount of income generated by membership dues should be noticed, even if it can be partly explained by the fact that the dues of ISI members who also belong to IASS have not yet been recorded yet.

## Administrative Manual

Xavier Charoy, President-elect, has drafted, with the help of the Secretariat and various current and previous Officers and Committee chairs, a document that describes the role of the individuals who are in charge of the different activities involved in the running of IASS. This administrative manual should prove very useful for passing on duties between individuals and should improve significantly the way that IASS activities are managed.

## **Relations Between the ISI Office and the IASS Secretariat**

A meeting of ISI and IASS representatives held in Libourne in February 2000 helped to clarify the relations between the ISI Office and the IASS Secretariat, including updating of information on members, exchange of membership files, and subscription to ISI reviews through IASS. Subsequent contacts by e-mail have been useful for further clarification when necessary.

D. Fitch (USA)  
L. Gligorova (Croatia)  
L. Huang (China)  
M. Sicron (Israel)  
A. Thiongane (Senegal)

## **Dissemination of Publications**

The Secretariat is in charge of disseminating the French version of *The Survey Statistician* to all francophone IASS members, as well as disseminating the *ISI Newsletter* to IASS members who do not belong to the ISI or another section. Moreover, the Secretariat has been producing, upon demand or on a regular basis, various member lists to be used for the dissemination of other materials by different institutions (e.g., the English version of *The Survey Statistician*, proceedings of the IASS-organized meetings at the Helsinki ISI Session, and ISI journals other than the *ISI Newsletter*).

## **Cochran-Hansen Prize**

The Secretariat received entries in the competition. Following the decision of the jury chaired by Susan Linacre, the Secretariat has been in close contact with the recipient to organize her trip to the Seoul ISI Session at the expense of IASS.

## **2001 Election of IASS Officers and Council Members**

### **Results**

#### **President-elect:**

L. Biggeri (Italy)

#### **Vice-Presidents:**

D. Binder (Canada)

A. Christianson (Sweden)

#### **Scientific Secretary:**

S. Laaksonen (Finland)

#### **Council Members: (4 years)**

K. Djerf (Finland)

# IASS Accounts

	1999	2000	2001 - S1
<b>Income</b>			
Membership contributions			
Individual members	57,683.15	84,237.91	11,641.68
Institutionnal members	47,600.00	49,600.00	10,578.32
Short courses	80,675.33		
Interest	-3,371.00	2,301.13	2,727.47
Other	897.79	12,903.57	9,471.35
<b>Total income</b>	<b>183,485.27</b>	<b>149,042.61</b>	<b>34,418.82</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Publications			
ISI Newsletter	20,996.76	21,841.39	
Secretariat costs	12,733.35	17,601.65	9,506.76
Travel and meetings			
ISI Session			
Jubilee-related expenditures	108,212.98		
Other	34,072.30		28,830.83
President expenditures	25,631.00	4,084.00	8,564.17
Other	3,500.00	1,680.00	
Computer costs	956.00	6,690.00	
Sponsorship of conferences, courses, etc..			
Abidjan	10,000.00		
Riga	43,162.29		
Portland	32,367.38		
Buffalo (ICES II)		57,826.82	
Capri			10,601.25
Cochran-Hansen Prize	30,212.76		
Other	9,346.00	15,193.94	3,421.43
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>331,190.82</b>	<b>124,917.80</b>	<b>60,924.44</b>
Income over expenditure	-147,705.55	24,124.81	-26,505.62
Fund 31 December n-1	711,108.77	563,403.22	587,528.03
Fund 30 June n			561,022.41
Fund 31 December n	563,403.22	587,528.03	

All figures are expressed in French Francs.





**Minutes of the IASS Council  
and Executive Committee Meetings  
Seoul, August 23 and 28, 2001  
Christophe Lefranc, Executive Director**

Participants in all or part of the meetings: Xavier Charoy (incoming president), Luigi Biggeri (president-elect), Farhad Mehran, Gad Nathan (outgoing vice-presidents), David Binder, Anders Christianson (incoming vice-presidents), Dan Kasprzyk (outgoing scientific secretary), Seppo Laaksonen (incoming scientific secretary), Fred Vogel (outgoing Council member), Cynthia Clark, Pedro Luis do Nascimento Silva (Council members), Kari Djerf, David Fitch, Huang Langhui (incoming Council members), Leyla Mohadjer (co-editor of the *Survey Statistician*), Christophe Lefranc (executive director), François Fabre (treasurer), Marcel Van den Broecke (director, ISI Permanent Office), Daniel Berze (assistant director, ISI Permanent Office).

### **1. Secretariat Matters**

The Council approved the appointment of François Fabre as treasurer of the IASS.

It was decided not to change the annual dues amount, but to express it in euros: it was set at 20 euros for individual members and 300 euros for institutional members. The dues are reduced to 10 euros for individual members who are citizens of a developing country (defined as a country that is not a member of the OECD) and living in such a country. The dues of institutions in developing countries are reduced to 120 euros. These amounts may be reviewed in light of projects that the IASS wishes to develop and its financing needs.

Under the rules of the ISI, a membership is terminated in the event of non-payment of annual dues for two years. Reminders are to be sent by the Secretariat to members who are behind in their dues.

The director of the ISI Permanent Office said that he was satisfied with the improvements made to the IASS membership file, and on this matter the Council thanked INSEE (Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques, France), which provides office services for the IASS.

### **2. Proposed Revision of Statutes**

With a view to a possible revision of the statutes of the IASS, Xavier Charoy will conduct a comparative study of the statutes of the IASS, the ISI and other sections of the ISI. He will then submit to the Council various proposals to amend the IASS statutes to make them more consistent with those of the ISI and its other sections.

### **3. Development and Maintenance of Web site**

Since its creation, the IASS Web site has been maintained by the ISI and has been accessible via the ISI Web site ([www.cbs.nl/isi/iass](http://www.cbs.nl/isi/iass)). It will now be accessible via two new addresses: [www.isi-iass.org](http://www.isi-iass.org) and [www.surveystats.org](http://www.surveystats.org).

Fred Vogel, editor of the IASS Web site, presented the new layout and the new pages on the site. Suggestions were also made regarding the development of the site: making it possible to join the Association on-line (without dues necessarily being paid on-line); providing on the site a list of all IASS members, a list of local representatives and a list of those responsible for different activities; offering the opportunity to ask questions on the site to survey statistics experts; and links to summaries of publications of interest to survey statisticians.

### **4. Cochran-Hansen Prize**

The first two awardings of the Cochran-Hansen Prize in 1999 and 2001 revealed the need to make the prize more competitive by attracting a greater number of young statisticians to submit a paper arising from their work. To do this, the current age limit of 30 years of age will be raised. Setting the new age limit at 35 or 40 years was discussed. Xavier Charoy will make the final decision about the age limit on completion of final consultations, notably with Kirk Wolter, outgoing president and the initiator of changing the age limit. Also, in countries whose citizens are eligible to compete (countries not members of the OECD), information about the prize and its benefits should be disseminated more effectively to universities with statistical programs, national associations of statisticians, IASS local representatives and former students of courses organized by the IASS.

## **5. Network of Local Representatives**

Anders Christianson will succeed Farhad Mehran as vice-president in charge of administering the local representatives network. To deal with the recently noted problem of mobilizing local representatives, Xavier Charoy will send a letter to current local representatives, reminding them of what the IASS expects of them and asking them to state clearly that they wish to continue in this role. It is hoped that as a result, the Association will, in fairly short order, be able to count on local representatives who are perhaps fewer in number but more active. Also, the idea was raised of organizing a meeting of all local representatives present at the next session of the ISI.

## **6. Administrative Manual**

Xavier Charoy presented the draft administrative manual which he prepared with the assistance of people currently or formerly responsible for various functions within the IASS. This document describes the activities related to each function (president, scientific secretary, executive director, etc.) and is designed to improve the functioning of the IASS and to smooth the handover of duties from one person to another. The draft administrative manual should be finalized by the end of 2001, after the comments and suggestions of members of the Council have been taken into account. Once completed, the administrative manual will provide a frame of reference for organizing the administrative and scientific activities of the IASS. However, its goal is not to write in stone the activities undertaken or the procedures associated with them; obviously, these may evolve under the initiative of the different people filling the positions.

## **7. Scientific Activities**

Farhad Mehran reviewed the preparations for the workshop on small domain estimation in labour force surveys, which was to have been held in Libourne, France in July 2000 and then in April 2001, and which ultimately had to be cancelled due to underenrolment: the workshop was underpublicized, even though it was not expected to attract more than sixty participants. The other scientific events organized under the auspices of the IASS took place as planned.

For 2002, a conference on data reconciliation planned for Jyväskylä, Finland from May 29 to 31 was added to the three conferences already identified as being associated with the IASS (International Conference on Improving Surveys (Copenhagen, August 25-28), Third Francophone Conference on Sampling (Grenoble, France, October 17-18), International Conference on Questionnaire Development, Evaluation and Testing Methods (Charleston, USA, November 14-17). Being noted that all these scientific events will take place in developed countries, the discussion turned to what the IASS could do in order to also be associated with scientific events organized in developing countries. Local representatives should be further encouraged to inform the IASS that such events are being organized in their area. Also, the IASS will participate in the 2004 conference of the IAOS (International Association for Official Statistics), which will be on the measurement of poverty and should take place in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

## **8. Publications**

In connection with its jubilee, the IASS undertook the publication of two works that will reproduce articles marking the development of survey statistics and survey methodology. The first, prepared under the co-ordination of Gad Nathan, is ready to be printed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Two possible formats for the publication were submitted to the Council. The option chosen was to reproduce the selected articles in their existing formats, rather than reformatting them to make them all uniform. The ABS will therefore be able to start printing the work soon, after which it will be sent to each IASS member.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has also agreed to take on the printing and dissemination of the proceedings of the meetings organized by the IASS at the Seoul Session of the ISI. The articles to be included in this publication are being collected by David Binder, who chaired the Seoul Session's program committee. IASS members Graham Kalton and Colm O'Muircheartaigh proposed a new publishing project to the Council in honour of Leslie Kish, the recently deceased former president of the IASS. This work would include a selection of articles by Leslie Kish and would be published in conjunction with John Wiley

and Sons. The latter would agree to publish the work and would grant a major reduction to the IASS, provided that the IASS agreed to purchase a sizable number of copies in order to distribute one to each of its members. Furthermore, thanks to a gift from Leslie Kish's widow, the cost to the IASS would be reduced even further by a significant amount. The Council received the proposal very favourably, and the project should be launched soon.

*The Survey Statistician*, the IASS newsletter and vehicle for communication among members, was also discussed. In order to increase the number of articles submitted for publication, Council members will try to contribute to this aspect of the running of the IASS, either by proposing articles themselves or by having colleagues propose them.

## **9. Partnership with Other Organizations**

The IASS has received a request for partnership from the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR). Information exchanges are a possibility, with, for example, *The Survey Statistician* including some news about WAPOR. Also, WAPOR should be interested in the second publication marking the IASS jubilee, on survey methodology and is being prepared under the co-ordination of Lars Lyberg.



# Pictures of the IASS Short Courses in Seoul



Dan Kasprzyk, IASS Scientific Secretary, and Kay-O Lee, Korea's short course liaison and member of the Local Program Committee, with students at the IASS short course registration desk.

Young-Won Kim (Sookmyung University), Jacob Zewoldi (United Nations), and Kay-O Lee (Korea Air Force Academy), relax at the Social.

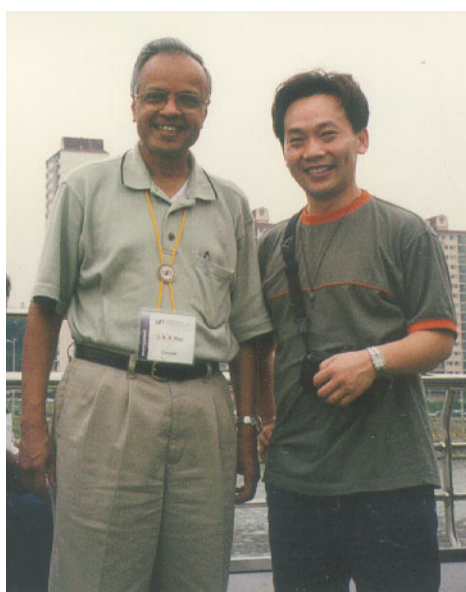


Graham Kalton and Young-Won Kim with students from Sookmyung University who helped with the short course registration.



Colm  
O'Muircheartaigh  
discussing sampling  
methods with his  
students.

Wayne Fuller, Jay Breidt, and Jae-Kwang  
Kim during a break from teaching the  
variance estimation course.



Jon Rao and Anthony An (SAS Institute)  
enjoy Seoul at the conclusion of the short courses.



Clyde Tucker (3<sup>rd</sup> left/back row) and students from his nonsampling error course.



Eric Rancourt, Diane and John Kovar, and Kay-O Lee, enjoying the social and time off from teaching.



After two and a half days attending the sampling workshop, IASS short course students are happy for a break.



## Announcements

### Announcement and First Call for Papers

**DataClean 2002**  
**May 29-31, 2002**  
**Jyväskylä, Finland**

#### Aim

This conference will be devoted to techniques for dealing with corrupted and missing data in large scale statistical data processing. Such data represent a fundamental problem for the data systems of official statistical agencies as well as private enterprise. In particular, the conference will focus on the identification and correction of errors and outliers in data and on imputation for missing data values. Although this topic is not a new one, the focus will be on recent developments in the application of computer intensive methods to these problems, particularly those based on the application of neural net and related methods, and their comparison with more established methods.

#### Topics

- ◆ Use of neural networks and related computer intensive classification methods for data editing and imputation.
- ◆ Use of modern robust techniques for outlier detection and correction.
- ◆ Error localization.
- ◆ Use of tree-based classifiers for data editing and imputation.
- ◆ Use of Bayesian methods for error detection and imputation.
- ◆ Multiple imputation.
- ◆ Graphical tools for data validation and checking.
- ◆ Classical data editing and imputation methods.

#### Call for Abstracts

We invite abstracts of 200 to 300 words for contributed papers. We are especially interested in papers that present innovative methods and software demonstrations to meet the challenges of data improvements. Your abstract (English) should include the presenter's name, affiliation, address,

telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address. The deadline for abstracts is January 10, 2002.

#### Submission

Submissions can be made via DataClean 2002 website <http://erin.mit.jyu.fi/dataclean> or to  
Pasi Koikkalainen  
DataClean Organization Chair  
Department of Mathematical  
Information Technology  
University of Jyväskylä  
P.O. Box 35, FIN-40351 Jyväskylä, Finland.

#### Scientific Programme Committee

Jim Austin (Univ. of York, U.K.), Giulio Barcaroli (ISTAT, Italian Statistical Institute), Raymond Chambers (Univ. of Southampton, U.K.), John Charlton (Office for National Statistics, U.K.), Ton de Waal (Statistics Netherlands), Alex Gammerman (Royal Holloway University, U.K.), Beat Hulliger (Swiss Statistical Office), Pasi Koikkalainen (University of Jyväskylä), Phil Kokic (Insiders, Germany), Seppo Laaksonen (R&D Department, Statistics Finland), Birger Madsen (Novo Nordisk, Denmark).

International Conference on

**ICIS**  
Improving Surveys

#### Call for Abstracts for Contributed Papers

Date: August 25-28, 2002

Place: Main Building at the University of Copenhagen

Deadline: Abstracts for contributed papers are due December 30, 2001

## Background and Goals

The theme of the conference is to build a bridge from understanding nonresponse, combining surveys and official registers, the demand for international comparability, etc., to IMPROVING SURVEYS.

## Suggested Contributed Paper Sessions

- ◆ Effect of mobile phones on telephone surveys
- ◆ Web-based questionnaires and e-mail questionnaires
- ◆ Collecting sensitive data
- ◆ Collecting and analysing web data
- ◆ Efficient survey designs
- ◆ Effects of nonresponse on bias
- ◆ Developing international standards
- ◆ Age and grade confusion
- ◆ Effect of different survey procedures and sampling designs
- ◆ Lessons learnt from recent assessments
- ◆ Standardising concepts versus questionnaire wording
- ◆ Requirements for metadata
- ◆ Recent harmonisation efforts

## How to Submit Abstracts

By December 30, 2001, an abstract in English of no more than 200 words should be submitted to [icis@sfi.dk](mailto:icis@sfi.dk).

Questions about contributed paper submissions can be sent to [icis@sfi.dk](mailto:icis@sfi.dk).

Questions about the professional programme should be addressed to Hans Bay through e-mail: [hb@sfi.dk](mailto:hb@sfi.dk).

Registration and hotel accommodation inquiries as well as general questions about the conference should be addressed to the Conference Secretariat at [icis2002@ics.dk](mailto:icis2002@ics.dk).

## Conference Sponsors

SFI-SURVEY, Denmark	Eurostat
SAS Institute	IASS
Danish Society for Theoretical Statistics	

For further information about the preliminary programme and registration, visit our webpage at: [www.icis.dk](http://www.icis.dk).



## United Nations Statistics Division

### New Publications

**Statistical Yearbook, forty-fifth issue, CD-ROM** (SYB-CD) Series S, No. 21, \$199.00, Sales No. E.01.XVII.4

The United Nations Statistical Yearbook CD-ROM provides access to time series data for over 200 countries and areas of the world on a broad range of social, economic, and environmental statistics. It contains more than 400 series based on data from nearly 20 international statistical sources and specialized organizations and is organized into 19 topics. SYB-CD provides user-friendly software for browsing the database, selecting series of interest, viewing the selected series in a spreadsheet format, and exporting the data. It can be installed on multiple clients from network installations at no extra charge.

### World Statistics Pocketbook

Series V, No. 21, 239 pages, \$10.00, Sales No. E.01.XVII.6

This handy pocketbook provides an easy-to-use international compilation of basic economic, social, and environmental indicators for 209 countries and areas worldwide. It covers 57 key indicators in the areas of population, economic activity, agriculture, industry, energy, international trade, transport, communications, gender, education, and environment, drawn from over 20 international statistical sources. The layout provides an easy-to-view comprehensive statistical profile of each country or area, and the notes on sources and definitions provide a valuable guide for further research by the in-depth user of these statistics.

### National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 1996-1997

Series X, No. 25, Parts I and II (not sold separately), 3,752 pages total, \$160.00. Fortieth issue, Sales No. E.00.XVII.11

This publication contains detailed national accounts estimates for 165 countries and areas. The estimates for each country and area are presented in separate chapters, with uniform table headings



and classifications as recommended in the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA), 1968 edition. A summary of the conceptual framework of the SNA, its classifications, and definitions of transactions are also included in the publication.

### **Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics 2001**

Series N, No. 6, 254 pages, \$35.00, Sales No. E.01.XVII.5

This *Compendium* presents statistics on human settlements and housing conditions for 243 countries or areas and 315 cities in the areas of population, households, and urbanization. It focuses on the process of urbanization and characteristics of cities in developed and developing regions. The *Compendium* contains 13 tables and includes graphical presentations of statistics.

### **Handbook on Population and Housing Census Editing**

Series F, No. 82, 139 pages, \$20.00, Sales No. E.00.XVII.9

This publication provides an overview of census and survey data editing methodology and information on the use of various approaches to census editing. It also reviews the advantages and disadvantages of manual and computer-assisted editing. The volume presents, in detail, procedures and techniques for editing census data at various stages of processing. Technical considerations, particularly those pertinent to programming, are covered in annexes. Although the focus is primarily on editing for population and housing censuses, many of the concepts and techniques also apply to survey operations.

### **Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework**

Series F, No. 80, 138 pages, \$15.00, Sales No. E.01.XVII.9


These recommendations are based on a common conceptual framework for the design of the tourism satellite account. They cover the form of a basic system of concepts, definitions, classifications, tables, and aggregates linked to the standard tables of the *System of National Accounts 1993*. The purpose of the tourism satellite account is to analyze in detail all the aspects of demand for goods and services that might be associated with tourism within the economy, to observe the supply of such products and describe how this supply

interacts with other economic activities, and to permit greater international comparability in tourism statistics. An annex presents a provisional list of tourism-specific products as a reference for countries that wish to develop their own list. The publication was prepared by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat, the World Tourism Organization, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat).



Visit the new and improved IASS web site and  
read *The Survey Statistician* on line!

[www.isi-iass.org](http://www.isi-iass.org) or [www.surveystats.org](http://www.surveystats.org)

	<p><b>International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS)</b> The Premier World Organization representing who's who in Sample Survey and Census Methodologies</p>
<p><b>More about the IASS</b></p> <p><b>Becoming a member</b></p> <p><b>Services for members</b></p> <p><b>Survey Statistician</b></p> <p><b>Publications</b></p> <p><b>IASS Conferences</b></p> <p><b>Cochran-Hansen Prize</b></p> <p><b>Ask the experts</b></p> <p><b>Links</b></p> <p><b>What's new</b></p>	<p><b>FOUNDATION AND OBJECTIVES:</b></p> <p>Founded in 1973, the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) has as its charge and mandate to promote the study and development of the theory and practice of sample surveys and censuses. It also aims to increase interest in surveys and censuses among statisticians, governments, and the public the world over.</p> <p><b>MEMBERSHIP AND EXECUTIVE:</b></p> <p>At present the IASS has approximately 1.200 members from 130 countries and 38 institutional members.</p> <p>IASS headquarters are situated in Libourne (FRANCE) and operate, to a large extent, under the auspices of the French statistical agency INSEE, which lends its expertise and status to aid and promote the association's work.</p> <p>The society is run by an Executive Committee, elected for a period of 2 year and a Council, elected for a four year period.</p> <p>Anyone interested in learning more about IASS should contact Christophe Lefranc IASS Executive Director INSEE 18, Bd. Adolphe Pinard 75675 PARIS, France e-mail: <a href="mailto:christophe.lefranc@insee.fr">christophe.lefranc@insee.fr</a></p>
	<p><b>Association Internationale des Statisticiens d'Enquête (AISE)</b></p>

### Important Notice

Since a PDF file of the newsletter is available on the IASS web site, some members no longer wish to receive the hard copy, but just want to be notified of the posting of a new issue. Please send an e-mail to [LeylaMohadjer@Westat.com](mailto:LeylaMohadjer@Westat.com) if you want to take advantage of this possibility.



## In Other Journals



### Survey Methodology

A Journal Published by Statistics Canada

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## Journal of Official Statistics

An International Review Published by Statistics Sweden  
<http://www.jos.nu/>

JOS is a scholarly quarterly that specializes in statistical methodology and applications. Survey methodology and other issues pertinent to the production of statistics at national offices and other statistical organizations are emphasized. All manuscripts are rigorously reviewed by independent referees and members of the Editorial Board.

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Lars Lyberg, R&D Department, Statistics Sweden, Box 24 300, S-104 51 Stockholm, Sweden.



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e-mail: j.kordos@stat.gov.pl. Both latest issues of Statistics in Transition may be found at the following web  
site address: <http://www.stat.gov.pl/english/transition.htm>.





## The Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv (ASTA)

[www.uni-koeln.de/wiso-fak/wisostatsem/asta/](http://www.uni-koeln.de/wiso-fak/wisostatsem/asta/)

In addition to the tables of contents usually published in *The Survey Statistician*, please find below the contents of two issues of The Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv (ASTA), Journal of the German Statistical Society. It is edited by Prof. Dr. Karl Mosler, University of Cologne. It provides an international forum for researchers and users from all branches of statistics. The first part (Articles) contains contributions to statistical theory, methods, and applications. A focus is on statistical problems that arise in the analysis of economic and social phenomena. The second part (News & Reports) consists of news, reports, and other material that relates to the activities of the Society. Book reviews are published in the third part (Books). Invited papers which have been presented to the Annual Congress of the Society are regularly published in the second issue of a volume. All papers in the first part are anonymously refereed. In order to be acceptable, a paper must either present a novel methodological approach or a result, obtained by a substantial use of statistical method, which has a significant scientific or societal impact. Occasional review papers are also encouraged. Authors of contributions are requested to mail three copies to the editor for refereeing. The journal publishes original contributions in English and German language, articles preferably in English. After acceptance the author has to provide a LaTeX- or ASCII file of the final manuscript that follows the style of the Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv in citation and layout. For submissions, please contact:

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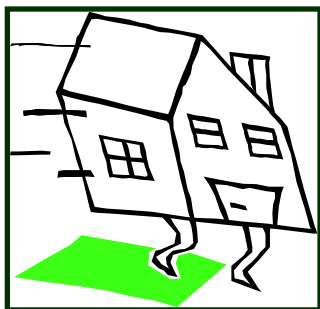
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**DENMARK** - SFI  
**EUROPE** - A.C. NIELSEN MANAGEMENT SERVICE  
**FRANCE** - INSTITUT NATIONAL D'ÉTUDES DÉMOGRAPHIQUES - INED  
**USA** - RESEARCH TRIANGLE INSTITUTE  
**USA** - WESTAT