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USAGE OF STATISTICAL DATA FOR GENDER ANALYSIS AT NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

UNECE Statistical Database: An Update on Developments in Gender Statistics

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

This report summarizes recent developments in the reporting of gender statistics in the UNECE Statistical Database since 2006. Some of the improvements include: further expansion of domains relevant to gender covered in the Database and a general update of data in existing areas. This report also highlights trends in the use of gender statistics in the Database and emphasizes specific uses the data.

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I.   BACKGROUND

1.   The UNECE Statistical Database contains data on gender statistics which can be used as a monitoring tool of the direct effects of actions undertaken to foster gender balance in countries in the UNECE Region. In 2000, the UNECE Gender Statistics Database was developed as a joint initiative of the UNECE Statistical Division and UNDP. Overtime, the database was merged with other databases maintained by UNECE, namely the economic and transport database. At this time, the overall database is referred to as the UNECE Statistical Database.

2.   At the previous meeting in 2006, developments in the database related to gender statistics were reported. They included the full migration to the online PC axis version which allows retrieval of data through specific values and different dimensions and the Russian interface. It was concluded in 2006 to continue the activities to improve the reporting of gender statistics and to ensure adequate resources necessary for further developments.

II.   RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GENDER STATISTICS IN THE UNECE STATISTICAL DATABASE

A.   Review of the content of gender statistics in the UNECE Statistical Database

3.   As recommended at the previous meeting in 2006, a Task Force (TF) on Gender Statistics Database was constituted to examine and further expand indicators relevant to gender statistics. The published data tables were reviewed for pertinence, and TF members suggested up-to-date indicators useful in monitoring gender dynamics in societies. The decision to discontinue some of the data tables was motivated by the lack of the data available in the ECE countries, as well as lower levels of interest from data users.

4.   The content of a number of tables were reviewed and includes categories that were not taken into account so far. The TF also recommended additional tables within existing areas such as Education, Work and the economy, Public life and decision making Crime and Violence, and Families and Households. Beyond the existing domains, the TF recommended additional areas and as a result, there are now gender statistics available on topics as such Science and technology and Life balance. Using these newer tables and domains, one can better utilize the data in the database to analyze gender issues. See Annex 1 for a list of the content of the database relevant to gender statistics.

B.   General update of data area covered

5.   After identifying the newer content on gender statistics for the database, it was necessary to collect the data. The Statistical Division carried out the data collection by making use of international and national websites. In cases where an international source was not found, questionnaires containing the missing data tables were sent to the national statistical offices. The time frame for the data collected in the update covered the periods 1980, 1990, 1995, and each single year from 2000 to 2006.

6.   Through the data collection exercise, it was obvious that in many countries data produced are rarely centralized or provided for extended use. In this regard, the Statistical Database represents an excellent repository of these data which provides easy access for data users.

C.   Improvements in user interface

7.   The user interface of the UNECE Statistical Database has undergone three changes intended to ease the search capacity for data users. These changes are: (i) shorter names to the data tables, (ii) limitation of country list to countries which have data, and (iii) update notices.

1.   Shorter names to the data tables

8.   The naming of data tables was reviewed and decisions taken to simplify table names. In the past, some of the data table names were considered to be "redundant and unnecessarily long". It should be noted that the structure of the dissemination platform is somewhat rigid and requires adapting the labels of the tables as much as possible. The aim of this exercise was to convey accurate and useful information to the end users while meeting technical requirements.

2.   Data by country availability

9.   The review of the UNECE Statistical Databases carried out in the 2006 found that many of the data tables have poor geographical coverage and make it inconvenient to users to retrieve data for which there are data for very few countries. This affects negatively the attractiveness of the database and undermine it usefulness. The review panel recommended refraining from publishing tables with geographical coverage less than one third. It is not useful for the end users to have tables with many empty cells for several whole countries. The idea was, in a given table, to display data only for countries where there is whole or a relevant subset of data for at least one recent year (recent since 2003). This solution reduces the number of empty lines in the tables, restricting the list of countries from the beginning.

10.   Figure 1a below provides an illustration of the previous output table in which there were no data points for Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In Figure 1b, the revised selection of countries which eliminates these two countries.

Figure 1a.   Figure 1b.

No data was found for Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan do not appear in the list of countries because there are no data.

3.   Data update notice.

11.   The web interface is now equipped with the possibility for users to view the date of the last changes made to the data. This information is part of the metadata and can be found under the *Information* link available at the upper corner of each data table.

D.   Monitoring of the use of the UNECE Statistical Database

12.   Statistics on the usage of the UNECE Statistical Database focusing on gender statistics shows that the gender statistics component of the database catches an increasing interest from users. The average number of monthly downloads have doubled between 2006 and 2008. In particular

download of both the English and the Russian languages have increased considerably in the first months of 2008.

Average monthly number of data downloads

Source : UNECE, Statistical Division

Progression of monthly data downloads Index, 2006=100
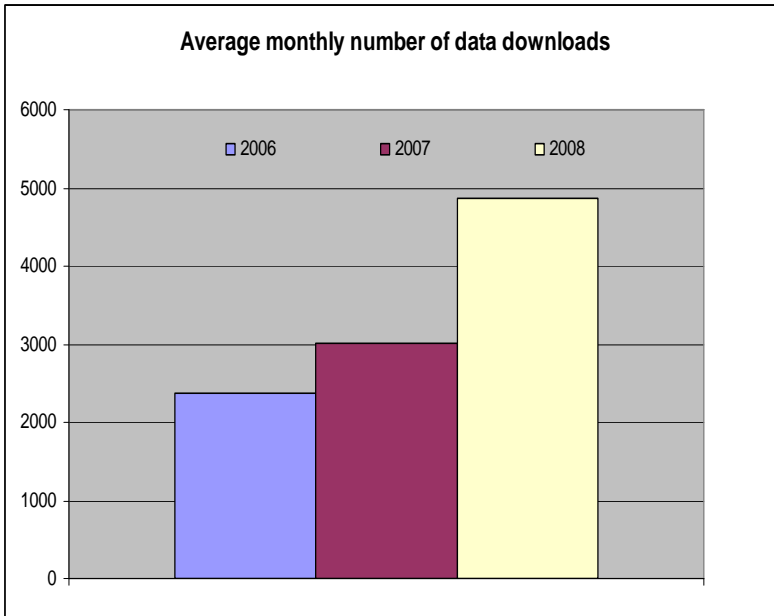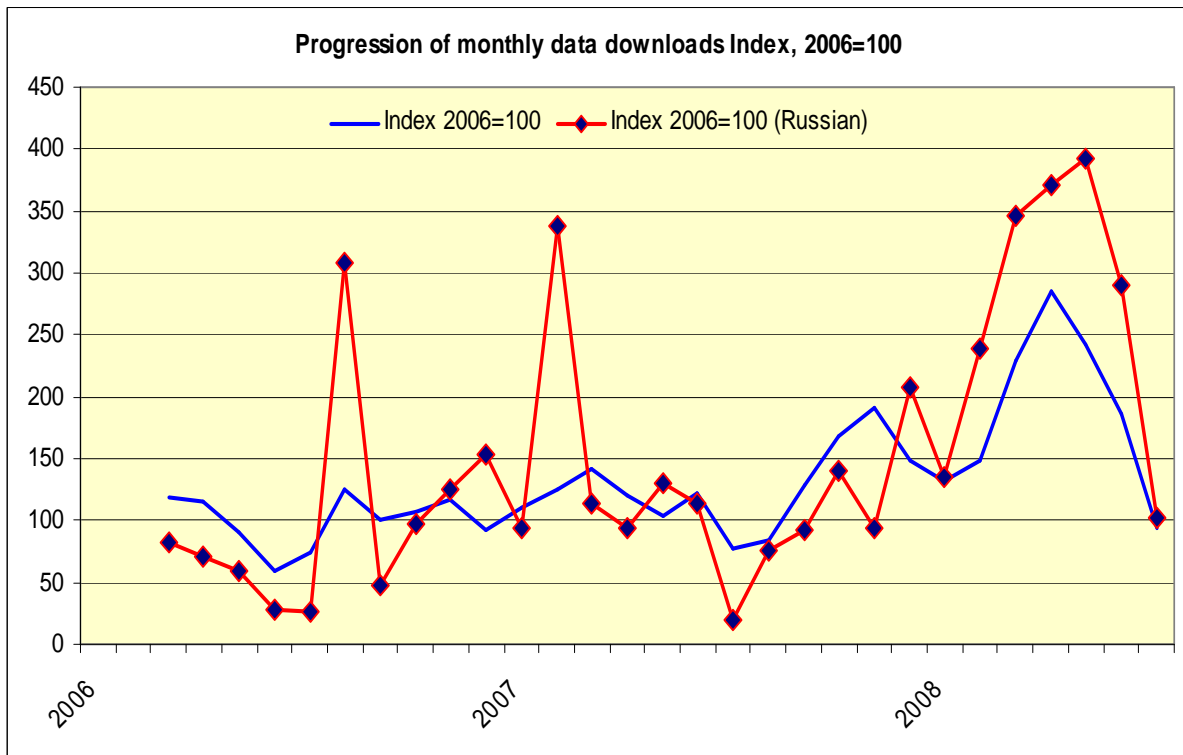
13.   Users of the gender statistics in the database are hard to differentiate. In 2007 only 2% tables downloaded were by registered users, of which students and researchers represent the biggest share (1.4%).

14.   As for the areas of interest, the *economic* activity tables receive the highest attention, followed by those in *Population* and *Families and Households* domains. The most frequently consulted table of all is the overview summary table which is a cross-domain group of tables.
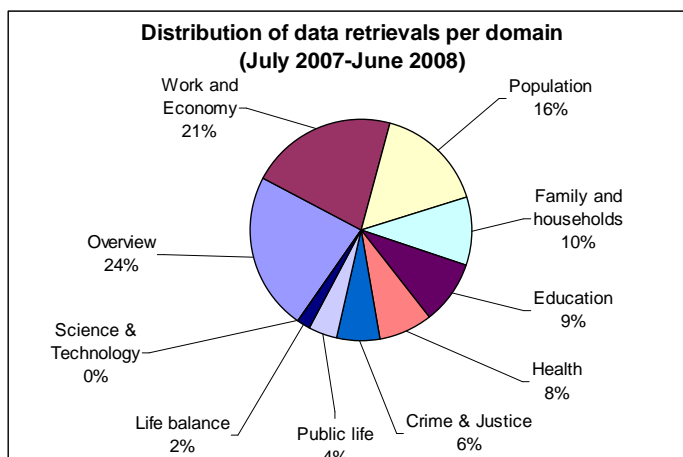
**Distribution of data retrievals per domain
(July 2007-June 2008)**

- Work and Economy 21%
- Population 16%
- Family and households 10%
- Overview 24%
- Education 9%
- Science & Technology 0%
- Health 8%
- Life balance 2%
- Public life 4%
- Crime & Justice 6%

Source: UNECE, Statistical Division

15.   The *Life balance* tables which were made accessible only as of May 2008 have received users' attention as up to 2 per cent of all downloads in the last 12 months. This shows how much people are interested in data balancing working and non-working life. The indicators monitored in those tables give ground to explore other reasons to explain the difference in men and women's participation economic and non economic life.

III.   FUTURE WORK

16.   The next steps in the activities in relation to the gender statistics in the UNECE Statistical Database will consist in:

(a)   Exploring ways to reshape the content on earnings statistics;
(b)   Developing a market strategy and producing promotional material for gender statistics;
(c)   Pursuing the updates of data from international and national on-line sources;
(d)   Exploring possibilities to produce analytical publications based on gender statistics.

Annex 1: Major changes to gender statistics indicators in the UNECE Statistical Database

Population

1. Population, 5-year age groups, by Age, Sex and Year.
2. Population, 5-year age groups, by Marital status, Age, Sex and Year.

Families & households

1. Live births by Mothers age and Year.
2. Total fertility rate by Year.
3. Adolescent fertility rate by Year.
4. Mean age of women at the birth of the first child by Year.
5. Mean age at first marriage by Sex and Year.
6. Legal abortions by Year.
7. One parent households and children by Sex of parent and Year.
8. Private households by Households type and Year.
9. One person households by Age, Sex and Year

New table:

10. First marriages by age group of bride and groom and Year

Work & the economy

1. Labour force by Age, Sex and Year.
2. Employment by 3sectors and Sex.
3. Employment by Occupation and Sex.
4. Employment by Status in employment, Sex and Year.
5. Employment by Public/Private sector, Sex and Year.
6. Employment by part-time/full-time contract, Sex and Year.
7. Unemployment by Country, Age, Sex, Year and Measurement.
8. Youth unemployment by Sex, Measurement, Country and Year
9. Long term unemployment by Country, Sex, Year and Measurement.

New tables:

10. Employment by occupation, sector of activity and sex
11. Employment by occupation and educational attainment and sex
12. Employment rate by marital status, sex and age group (15-24, 25-49, 50-64, 65+, 15+)
13. Employment rate of population 25-49 by sex and number of children up to 16 (0,1,2,3+)
14. Employment rate of population 25-49 by sex and age of youngest child (0-2; 3-5; 6-16; more than 16; no child, Total)
15. Inactive persons by reason of inactivity *(study, retirement, homemaking, other)*, sex and age group (15-24, 25-49, 50-64, 65+, 15+)

Education

1. Upper and post secondary pupils by Country, Sex, Year and Measurement.

2. Net enrolment ratio at secondary level by Country, Sex and Year.
3. Educational attainment by Country, Level of education, Age, Sex, Year and Measurement.
4. Graduates by Country, Level of education, Sex, Year and Measurement.
5. Tertiary students by Country, Field of study, Level of education, Sex, Year and Measurement.
6. Teachers by Country, Level of education, Sex, Year and Measurement.

New table

7. Life-long learning by sex and age group

Public life & decision making

1. Members of national parliament by Sex and Year.
2. Government ministers by Sex and Year.
3. Members of municipal councils or other local area governing bodies by Sex and Year.
4. Judges by Sex and Year.
5. Central bank board members by Sex and Year.
6. Senior level civil servants by Sex and Year
7. Journalists by Sex and Year.
8. Heads of universities by Sex and Year

New tables

9. Ministers of core ministries (Prime minister, Home affairs, Foreign affairs, Finance, Defense, Justice) by Sex and Year
10. Members of constitutional court by Sex and Year
11. Members of executive boards of the 20 top firms publicly quoted in the national stock exchange by Sex and Year
12. Ambassadors by Sex and Year
13. Police staff by Sex and Year

Discontinued table:

14. Chief editors of national newspapers by Country, Sex, Year and Measurement.

Health

1. Life expectancy by Age, Sex and Year.
2. Infant deaths per 1000 live births by Sex and Year.
3. Smokers by Age, Sex and Year.
4. Population by level of Body Mass Index by Country, Weight, Age, Sex and Year.

Crime & violence

1. Persons convicted by Country, Age, Sex, Year and Measurement.
2. Victims of crime by Type of crime, Sex and Year.

New tables

3. Victims of homicides by sex and by relationship between victim and perpetrator (Perpetrators: Spouse, Other relative. Other person)
4. Prisoners by national/foreign citizenship and sex
5. Persons convicted (or convictions ?) by type of conviction, Sex and Year The following conviction types will be added to existing table on convicted: Homicide, Robbery, Rape, Other crimes)

Discontinued tables

6. Prisoners by Country, Recidivist status, Sex, Year and Measurement.
7. Men convicted for rape and attempted rape as a percent of all convicted men by Country and Year.
8. Clear up rate for rape and attempted rape by Country and Year.
9. Foreign prisoners by Country, Sex, Year and Measurement

Life balance (new chapter)

1. Work patterns in couple households (couples classified by different combinations of full-time, part-time, no paid work respectively of male and female: both working full-time, man full-time/woman part-time, man part-time/woman full-time, etc.)
2. Number of available places at pre-schools (3-5 year olds), per 1,000 children of the same age
3. Number of available places at day-care centre (0-2 year olds), per 1,000 children of the same age
4. Time use structure by sex (Gainful work and study, Domestic work, Travel, Sleep, Meals, Personal care, Free time, Total)
5. Time spent for domestic work by sex: (Food preparation, Dish washing; Cleaning and other upkeep; Laundry, Ironing, Handicrafts and prod. Textiles; Gardening, Construction and repairs; Shopping and services; Childcare; Total of activities)
6. Time spent on 'free time' activities by sex: (TV and video; Socializing; Reading; Sports; Hobbies and Games; Volunteer work and help; Total of activities)

Science and ICT (new chapter)

1. Percentage of individuals who used a computer in the last 3 months, by sex and age group (16-24, 25-54, 55-74)
2. Percentage of individuals who used the Internet in the last 3 months, by sex and age group (16-24, 25-54, 55-74)
3. Percentage of individuals who accessed Internet, on average, at least once a week (in the last year or 3 months?), by sex and age group (16-24, 25-54, 55-74)
4. Researchers by sex and sector (Business enterprise, Government, Higher education, Private non-profit)