



UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 126 — 27 June-1 July 2005

It's just happened ...

Conference of European Statisticians plenary session

The 53rd plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) was held on 13-15 June in Geneva. The CES is composed of the Heads of National Statistical Offices of the UNECE member countries and international statistical organizations. It also attracts participation from several countries outside the region, like Australia, Brazil, China, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea. The Conference meets annually to coordinate international statistical work in the UNECE region and to discuss the most important problems and developments in statistics. Over 150 participants from 52 countries and 18 international

organizations participated in this year's plenary session.

The Conference made an in-depth review of migration statistics, and took note of the progress made on developing international guidelines on confidentiality and microdata and in the project on measuring the activities of multinational enterprises. Rich and constructive discussions took place at the two seminars held during the Conference – on improved data reporting and on measuring sustainable development. The seminars concluded with concrete proposals for further international work in these areas under the auspices of CES.

For more information visit <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2005.06.ces.htm>, or contact Lidia Bratanova (lidia.bratanova@unece.org).

Albania commits itself to improving road safety

Albania has made a significant step to improve road safety by acceding to the 1971 European Agreement supplementing the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals and its Protocol on Road Markings. It is the 28th Contracting Party to the Agreement and the 23rd to the Protocol.



The European Agreement provides for higher road safety standards that some Contracting Parties to the Vienna Convention outside the UNECE region might have difficulties meeting. It also requires that signs which do not conform to the signing system in the Vienna Convention and the European Agreement be replaced within a period of 10 years.

For more information contact Marie-Noëlle Poirier (marie-noelle.poirier@unece.org).

Population and Housing Censuses

The UNECE Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses met on 20-22 June to move work forward on the finalization of the Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census for the region. The census is one of the pillars for data collection on the number and characteristics of the population. The Recommendations aim to provide guidance to countries in the planning and conducting of their population and housing censuses and to improve the comparability of data at regional level.

census, definition of the resident population, standards related to international migration, definition of family, and standards related to housing statistics. The modifications to the new Recommendations compared with the Recommendations for the 2000 Census Round will reflect the new standards and definitions in all areas covered by a census and will include new sections on disability and agriculture. It is expected that the Recommendations will be considered for adoption at the Conference of European Statisticians in June 2006.

During the meeting, the Steering Group discussed some of the emerging issues that need to be considered in the development of the new Recommendations. These include: definition of a

For more information contact Paolo Valente (paolo.valente@unece.org).

Not an official record - For information only

Seminar on business registers

The joint UNECE/Eurostat Seminar on Business Registers was held in Luxembourg on 21-22 June. The seminar discussed the development of a quality framework for business registers, experiences in the implementation of the ISIC rev.4 classification, implications of multinational enterprise groups for national statistical offices and international organizations, and the use of business registers to

support demand for statistics on small and medium-sized enterprises. The Seminar recommended that the UNECE conduct its survey of business registers annually (instead of over two years) and post the results on the UNECE website.

For more information contact Jan Karlsson (jan.karlsson@unece.org).

Coming up soon ...

PRESS CONFERENCE on ENERGY SECURITY IN THE CASPIAN SEA REGION

Tuesday, 28 June at 2:30 p.m. in Conference Room III

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Vladimir Shkolnik, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Kazakhstan

H.E. Mr. Medjid Kerimov, Minister of Fuel and Energy of Azerbaijan

Mr. Igor Yusufov, Special Envoy of President V. Putin on International Energy Cooperation, Russian Federation

Mr. Mahmood Khaghani, Director-General, Ministry of Petroleum for Caspian Sea Oil and Gas Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran

June

27(pm) & 30 June	Committee on Sustainable Energy
28 June	Energy Security Forum: High-level Meeting on Energy Security in the Caspian Sea Region
29 June	Joint Committee on Sustainable Energy and Energy Efficiency 21 Roundtable on the Kyoto Protocol, Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Mitigation
30 June-1 July	Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project
29 June-1 July	ECE/Eurostat/FAO/OECD Meeting on Food and Agricultural Statistics (FAO, Rome, Italy)

Facts and figures:

Nominal hourly earnings in manufacturing, growth rates

*Selected UNECE economies
(Year-on-year change, per cent)*

	2002	2003	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2005
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
France	3.4	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.9	2.7	...
Germany	1.7	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.4	1.6	1.9	1.5
Italy	2.7	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.8	2.2	2.7	3.2
Austria	2.3	2.3	2.5	1.1	2.2	2.8	2.2	...
Belgium	2.5	1.9	2.2	1.9	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.3
Finland	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.3	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.2
Ireland	5.8	5.0	4.9	3.5	4.4	5.6	5.9	...
Luxembourg	1.4	1.7	1.8	2.9	3.1	1.6	-0.1	0.8
Netherlands	3.7	2.4	1.9	1.6	2.3	1.9	1.8	...
Portugal	0.4	-2.3	-0.3	-0.3	0.3	-0.4	-0.8	-1.4
Spain	5.0	4.9	4.0	4.9	1.6	2.8	6.5	...
United Kingdom	3.5	3.5	3.8	3.7	4.3	3.4	3.4	3.5
Denmark	4.0	4.1	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.0	2.6	...
Sweden	3.4	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.5	3.0	2.6	3.0
Norway	5.2	4.7	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.2
Turkey	32.6	16.8	10.5	11.8	12.2	10.9	9.1	...
Canada	2.7	3.2	2.7	3.4	3.1	2.0	2.0	3.0
United States	3.6	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.7

Source: UNECE Statistical Database, compiled from OECD and national sources.

**For further information
please contact:**

**Information Service,
UN Economic Commission
for Europe (UNECE)
CH - 1211 Geneva 10,
Switzerland**

Tel: +41(0)22 917 44 44

Fax: +41(0)22 917 05 05

E-mail:

info.ece@unece.org

Website:

<http://www.unece.org>