

*Help! I'm an Accidental Government  
Information Librarian presents...*

# United Nations Statistics & Data Resources

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Librarian for Political Science, International Affairs, Public Policy,  
and Government Information

Yale University

# In this session:

- A two-minute overview of the United Nations
- An introduction to the UN Statistics Division
- UNdata: what it is and how to use it
- How UNdata compares to other data sources (Comtrade, databases from specialized agencies, MDG Indicators)



# The United Nations System

## UN Principal Organs

**General Assembly**

**Security Council**

**Economic and Social Council**

**Secretariat**

**International Court of Justice**

**Trusteeship Council<sup>5</sup>**

### Subsidiary Bodies

Main and other sessional committees  
Disarmament Commission  
Human Rights Council  
International Law Commission  
Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

### Subsidiary Bodies

Counter-terrorism committees  
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)  
International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

### Programmes and Funds

**UNCTAD** United Nations Conference on Trade and Development  
• **ITC** International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO)  
**UNDP** United Nations Development Programme  
• **UNCDF** United Nations Capital Development Fund  
• **UNV** United Nations Volunteers  
**UNEP** United Nations Environment Programme  
**UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund

**UN-HABITAT** United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
**UNHCR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
**UNICEF** United Nations Children's Fund  
**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
**UNRWA<sup>1</sup>** United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East  
**UN-Women** United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women  
**WFP** World Food Programme

### Research and Training Institutes

**UNICRI** United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute  
**UNIDIR<sup>1</sup>** United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

**UNITAR** United Nations Institute for Training and Research  
**UNRISD** United Nations Research Institute for Social Development  
**UNSSC** United Nations System Staff College  
**UNU** United Nations University

### Other Entities

**UNAIDS** Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS  
**UNISDR** United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction  
**UNOPS** United Nations Office for Project Services

### Related Organizations

**CTBTO PrepCom** Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization  
**IAEA<sup>2</sup>** International Atomic Energy Agency  
**OPCW** Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons  
**WTO<sup>3</sup>** World Trade Organization

### Advisory Subsidiary Body

UN Peacebuilding Commission

### Specialized Agencies<sup>4</sup>

**ILO** International Labour Organization  
**FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
**UNESCO** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
**WHO** World Health Organization  
**World Bank Group**  
• **IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
• **IDA** International Development Association  
• **IFC** International Finance Corporation  
• **MIGA** Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency  
• **ICSID** International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes  
**IMF** International Monetary Fund  
**ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization  
**IMO** International Maritime Organization  
**ITU** International Telecommunication Union  
**UPU** Universal Postal Union  
**WMO** World Meteorological Organization  
**WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization  
**IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development  
**UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
**UNWTO** World Tourism Organization

### Functional Commissions

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice  
Narcotic Drugs  
Population and Development  
Science and Technology for Development  
Social Development  
Statistics  
Status of Women  
Sustainable Development  
United Nations Forum on Forests

### Regional Commissions

**ECA** Economic Commission for Africa  
**ECE** Economic Commission for Europe  
**ECLAC** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
**ESCAP** Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
**ESCSA** Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

### Other Bodies

Committee for Development Policy  
Committee of Experts on Public Administration  
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations  
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names  
Other sessional and standing committees and expert, ad hoc and related bodies

### Departments and Offices

**EOSG** Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
**DESA** Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
**DFS** Department of Field Support  
**DGACM** Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

**DM** Department of Management  
**DPA** Department of Political Affairs  
**DPI** Department of Public Information  
**DPKO** Department of Peacekeeping Operations  
**DSS** Department of Safety and Security  
**OCHA** Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

**OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
**OIOS** Office of Internal Oversight Services  
**OLA** Office of Legal Affairs  
**OSAA** Office of the Special Adviser on Africa  
**OSRSG/CAAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

**UNODA** Office for Disarmament Affairs  
**UNOG** United Nations Office at Geneva  
**UN-OHRRLLS** Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States  
**UNON** United Nations Office at Nairobi  
**UNOV** United Nations Office at Vienna

#### NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> UNRWA and UNIDIR report only to the General Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> IAEA reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly.

<sup>3</sup> WTO has no reporting obligation to the General Assembly (GA) but contributes on an ad-hoc basis to GA and ECOSOC work inter alia on finance and developmental issues.

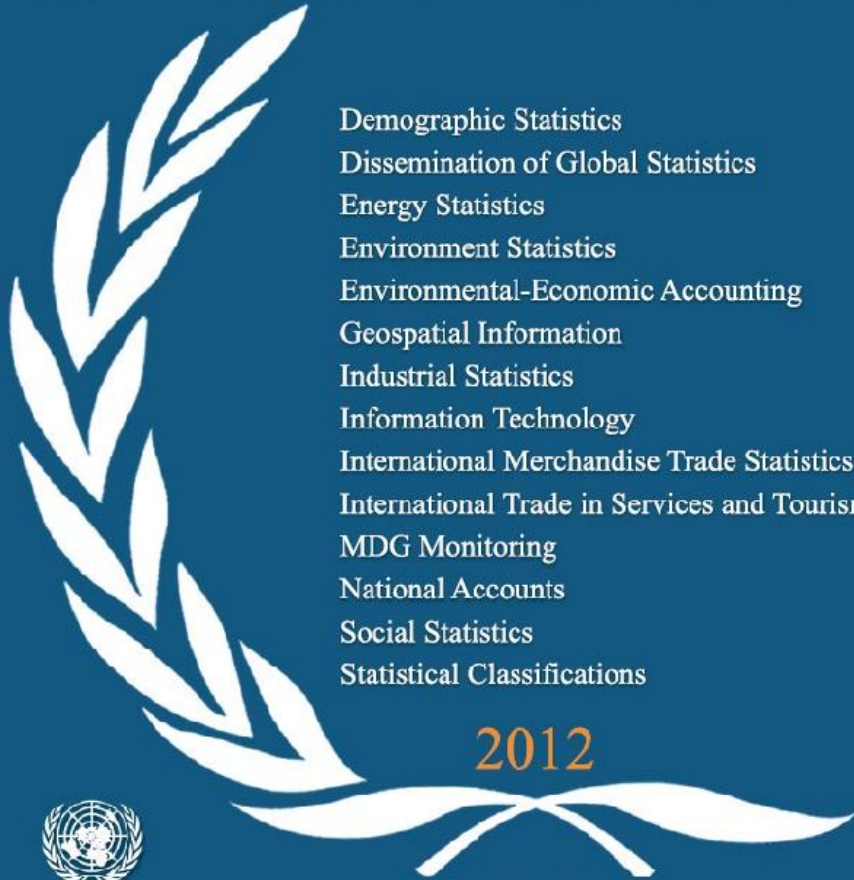
<sup>4</sup> Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the UN and each other through the coordinating machinery of ECOSOC at the intergovernmental level, and through the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) at the inter-secretariat level. This section is listed in order of establishment of these organizations as specialized agencies of the United Nations.

<sup>5</sup> The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994 with the independence of Palau, the last remaining United Nations Trust Territory, on 1 October 1994.

This is not an official document of the United Nations, nor is it intended to be authoritative.

# United Nations Statistics Division

## Major work areas and accomplishments



Demographic Statistics  
Dissemination of Global Statistics  
Energy Statistics  
Environment Statistics  
Environmental-Economic Accounting  
Geospatial Information  
Industrial Statistics  
Information Technology  
International Merchandise Trade Statistics  
International Trade in Services and Tourism  
MDG Monitoring  
National Accounts  
Social Statistics  
Statistical Classifications

2012



UNITED NATIONS

*Advancing the global statistical system*

## UN Statistics Division

- Overseen by the United Nations Statistical Commission
- Promotes and coordinates international standards and statistical activities
- Monitors Millennium Development Goals progress
- Produces the Statistical Yearbook, the World Statistics Pocketbook, the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, and more





Strengthening statistical capacity in countries

United Nations Statistics Division

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- Meetings & Events
- Technical Newsletters

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PROGRAMME OF WORK

- Economic Statistics
- Demographic & Social Statistics
- Environment & Energy Statistics
- Development of National Statistical Systems**
- Millennium Development Goals
- Geospatial Information

OUR COMMITMENTS

- Principles Governing International Statistical Activities
- Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

UNSD PARTNERS

- Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA)
- International Agencies
- National Statistical Offices

United Nations Statistics Division

Major work areas and accomplishments



... is committed to the advancement of the global statistical system. We compile and disseminate global statistical information, develop standards and norms for statistical activities, and support countries' efforts to strengthen their national statistical systems. We facilitate the coordination of international statistical activities and support the functioning of the **UN Statistical Commission** as the apex entity of the global statistical system. For more, see [About us](#).

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Data search:

Gateway to statistical information from databases of the UN and Member States



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GENDER STATISTICS

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▶ [Handbook of Statistical Organization](#)

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## Development of National Statistical Systems

One of the main functions of the United Nations Statistics Division ([UNSD](#)) is to assist countries in their efforts to strengthen their National Statistical Systems.

With the help of statistical offices around the world, UNSD launched in July 2006 this Development of National Statistical Systems website, to serve as the knowledge centre on official statistics. The development of this website reflects the strong commitment of UNSD to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices in the management and development of national statistical systems. This work started with the collation of [good practices](#) in the application of the [Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics](#). Since then, we have continuously improved the contents and functionalities of our website.

This website is a searchable repository, providing information on current practices in National Statistical Systems around the world, and international guidelines on statistical organizations. It contains documentations on:

- ▶ [Country profiles of National Statistical Systems](#), which provides general information on National Statistical Systems (history, legal framework, data collection and dissemination, etc.)
- ▶ [Key features of National Statistical Systems](#), which displays documents provided by countries on topics of relevance for the success of statistical agencies as well as documentation on national practices (e.g. Legislation, History and Governance of National Statistical Systems, IT Systems, Management and Database Development Strategies)
- ▶ [Good practices in National Statistical Systems](#), which gives examples of how countries are implanting the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, in order to assist countries in the development of their national statistical system. We actively promote the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics which were adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994. We provide direct assistance in the implementation of the Fundamental Principles and compile best practices. We facilitate the sharing of knowledge and practices in all aspects of the development of national statistical systems
- ▶ The [Handbook of Statistical Organization](#), Third Edition, covering the fundamentals of national systems of official statistics: general principles, data collection and respondent policies, principles of organization and management, and dissemination guidelines. The intended audience for the Handbook are both chief statisticians (and their colleagues) and those charged with oversight of the official statistics function.

This website should be considered as a living repository of information on national statistical systems. It is periodically updated with information provided by countries.

### Recent Updates

[Handbook of Statistical Organization](#)  
(5/18/2012)

[Switzerland](#) - Wegleitung zum Datenschutz bei der Weitergabe von Einzeldaten an Dritte (5/18/2012)





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Small States  
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2012

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Gender
Human settlements
Industry
National Accounts
Social statistics
Trade
<b>All Publications</b>
by Title
by Series
on Methods
on Statistical Data
In Electronic Format

## Latest Publications

- World Statistics Pocketbook 2011, Series: V, No.36
- 2009 Energy Statistics Yearbook, Series: J, No.53
- Statistical Yearbook, Fifty-fifth issue, Series: S, No.31
- 2010 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, Vol. II, Series: G, No.59
- Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS 2010), Series: M, No.86 Rev.1
- Population and Vital Statistics Report, Series: A, No.258
- National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 2010, Part I, Part II, Part III, IV and Part V, Series: X, No.46
- National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 2010, Series: X, No.47
- System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water, Series: F, No.100
- International Recommendations for Water Statistics, Series: M, No.91

**United Nations**  
**Sales Section**  
**300 East 42nd Street**  
**Room IN-927A**  
**New York 10017,**  
**USA**  
**facsimile 212-963-3489**

## Latest Publications

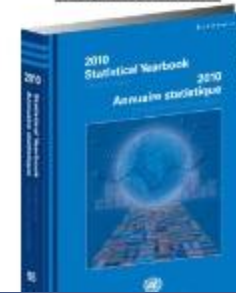
World Statistics  
Pocketbook 2011



2009 Energy Statistics  
Yearbook



Statistical Yearbook,  
Fifty-fifth issue





## Most Popular General-Purpose Publications

- [Statistical Yearbook](#)
- [World Statistics Pocketbook](#)
- [Monthly Bulletin of Statistics](#)

## Just Issued in Translation

- System of National Accounts, 2008; Series: F, No. 2/Rev.5 [\[Russian\]](#)
- Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS 2010); Series: M, No.86/Rev.1 [\[Russian\]](#) [\[Spanish\]](#)
- International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions, 2010; Series: M, No.52/Rev.3 [\[Spanish\]](#) [\[Chinese\]](#) [\[Russian\]](#)
- Handbook on Population and Housing Census Editing; Series: F, No.102 [\[Arabic\]](#)
- International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008; Series: M, No.83/Rev.1 [\[Arabic\]](#) [\[French\]](#)
- Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008; Series: F, No.80/Rev. 1 [\[Arabic\]](#) [\[Chinese\]](#)
- Handbook on Population and Housing Census Editing; Series: F, No.82/Rev. 1 [\[Arabic\]](#) [\[Russian\]](#)

The **Statistics Division** prepares general statistical compilations in print including the Statistical Yearbook, Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, and statistical compilations in special fields including demographic



November 2012

▼ Monthly Bulletin of Statistics Online

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Data in print

Other

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## Data Selection by Topic and Table

Topic
All
<b>POPULATION</b>
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDICES
PRICE INDICES
EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS
ENERGY
FUEL IMPORTS
MINING
MANUFACTURING
TRANSPORT
CONSTRUCTION
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE
FINANCE

Table 
<b>1 Estimates of mid-year population</b>
2 Crude birth rates
3 Crude death rates
5 Industrial production indices
6 Consumer price indices
7 Producer prices indices
8 Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of Uni
9 Paid employment in non-agricultural activities
10 Paid employment in manufacturing
11 Unemployment
12 Earnings in manufacturing, by sex
13 Head and production

Countries/Regions 
<b>Afghanistan</b>
Aland Islands
Albania
Algeria
American Samoa
Andorra
Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda

Period 	Range [2000 - 2012]
<input checked="" type="radio"/> All	From <input type="text" value="2000"/>
<input type="radio"/> Monthly	To <input type="text" value="2012"/>
<input type="radio"/> Quarterly	
<input type="radio"/> Annual	



Strengthening statistical capacity in countries

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- Meetings & Events
- Technical Newsletters

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## PROGRAMS OF WORK

- Economic Statistics
- Demographic & Social Statistics
- Environment & Energy Statistics
- Development of National Statistical Systems
- Millennium Development Goals
- Geospatial Information

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**Census Knowledge Base!**

**COMTRADE!**

**Demographic Yearbook!**

**Millennium Indicators Database!**

**UN Disability Statistics Database!**

**Joint Oil Data  
Initiative!**

# UNdata

The screenshot shows the UNdata website interface. At the top is the UNdata logo with the tagline "A world of information". Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for "Data", "Glossary", "Metadata", and "More". A search bar is present with a "Search" button. Below the search bar, it states "34 databases - 60 million records" and includes a checkbox for "Update calendar". The main content area is divided into three columns: "Databases" (listing Crime and Education), "Updates" (with a "Follow Us On Twitter" button), and "Country data services" (listing Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, and Andorra). Below these columns is a section for "MBS Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and other UNSD data resources", followed by "Popular searches" and "Feedback and reviews". At the bottom, there is a row of logos for various UN agencies and organizations.

Portal to the statistics and data resources of the UN

Includes 34 databases

Good for country-level information and comparisons

<http://data.un.org>








**Data** Glossary Metadata More

34 databases - 60 million records  Update calendar

Databases	Updates	Country data services
Crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>UNODC Homicide Statistics 2012, UNODC</li></ul> Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>UIS Data Centre, UNESCO UIS</li></ul>	 Follow Us On Twitter	 Afghanistan <input type="checkbox"/>  Albania <input type="checkbox"/>  Algeria <input type="checkbox"/>  Andorra <input type="checkbox"/>

 **MBS** Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and other UNSD data resources

▶ Popular searches

▶ Feedback and reviews   



# How does UNdata compare to...

- Comtrade?
- Databases from specialized agencies?
- Millennium Development Goals data tools?



# Choosing a UN data source

- UNdata is a good starting point.
- UNdata lets researchers take the data with them.
- As with all federated search tools, you'll find that searching individual databases will allow you to construct more powerful and precise searches.
- Depending on time period, geographic level, specific indicators that are needed—you might need to look beyond UNdata.

# Questions?

Melanie Maksin – [melanie.maksin@yale.edu](mailto:melanie.maksin@yale.edu)

# Session Evaluation

<http://tinyurl.com/grs-eval20>

Please fill out our survey and let us know what  
you think!



# Upcoming Accidental Librarian Webinars

- **December 13: British and Commonwealth legal materials** with Howard S. Carrier, Valdosta State University
- **January:** International Development data with Jim Church, University of California, Berkeley
- Brought to you by the North Carolina Library Association's Government Resources Section. Join us!  
<http://www.nclaonline.org/government-resources>