

ABSTRACT

Europe in figures — Eurostat yearbook 2006-07 — presents a comprehensive selection of statistical data on the European Union, its Member States and candidate countries. Most data cover the period 1995–2005 and some data include other countries such as the USA and Japan. With almost 400 statistical tables, graphs and maps, the yearbook treats areas such as population, education, health, living conditions and welfare, the labour market, the economy, international trade, industry and services, science and technology, the environment, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and European regions. This edition's spotlight chapter deals with energy statistics. A CD-ROM includes the electronic version of the yearbook in PDF, all tables and graphs in spreadsheet format, as well as further information. The yearbook may be viewed as an introduction to European statistics and provides guidance to the vast range of data freely available from the Eurostat website at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>.

Editor-in-chief

G. Schäfer
Eurostat, Head of Unit Dissemination

Editors

M. Feith, M. Fritz, A. Johansson Augier, U. Wieland
Eurostat, Dissemination unit

Contact details

Eurostat — Statistical Office of the European Communities,
Bâtiment Joseph Bech,
5, Rue Alphonse Weicker
L-2721 Luxembourg
e-mail: estat-user-support@ec.europa.eu

Production, desktop publishing

Informa sàrl
Giovanni Albertone, Simon Allen, Edward Cook, Séverine Gautron, Andrew Redpath

For more information please consult

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

Data extracted

Late June and early July 2006

The editor-in-chief and the editorial team of the Eurostat yearbook would like to thank all those who were involved in its preparation. The yearbook could only be published thanks to the assistance and support of the following colleagues:

EUROSTAT, THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (*)

DIRECTORATE A: RESOURCES

A5 Communication: Timothy Allen

DIRECTORATE C: NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN ACCOUNTS

C1 National accounts — methodology and analysis: P. Jarko, S. Reinecke, S. Stapel

C2 National accounts — production: L. Biedma, A. Krueger, J. Runesson

C3 Public finance: L. Frej-Ohlsson

C4 Balance of payments: M. Hult, M. Hussain, M. I. Lazaro, S. Pauwels

C5 Validation of public accounts: P. Parlasca, J. Verrinder, M. Wozowczyk

DIRECTORATE D: ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL STATISTICS

D1 Key indicators for European policies: L. Ledoux, G. Lock, G. Mazzi, R. Ruggeri-Cannata, H. Strandell, P. Wolff

D2 Regional indicators and geographical information: T. Carlquist, B. Feldmann, B. Quennery, D. Rizzi

D3 Short-term statistics: D. Amil, J. Dolvet, A. Giannoplidis, C. Lipp-Lingua, L. Öhman, I. Schoen, S. Visocka

D4 Price statistics: A. Maciura, C. Wirtz

DIRECTORATE E: AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS; STATISTICAL COOPERATION

E1 Agriculture statistics — methodology: G. Benoist, C. Coyette, J. Selenius, P. Szabo

E2 Agriculture statistics — production: D. Cross, M. Ernens, E. Mäki-Simola, F. Weiler, F. Zampogna, Y. Zanatta

E3 Environment statistics: J. Cabeça, J. Förster, J. Klein, W. Kloek, P. Nadin, N. Steinbach

DIRECTORATE F: SOCIAL STATISTICS AND INFORMATION SOCIETY

F1 Demographic and migration statistics: E. Capiluppi, V. Corsini, G. Kyi, G. Lanzieri, A. Lööf, D. Thorogood

F2 Labour market statistics: S. Casali, S. Jouhette, A. Melis, P. Regnard, F. Romans, V. Ritola, A. Tokofai

F3 Living conditions and social protection statistics: G. Abramovici, T. Bento, I. Dennis

F4 Education, science and culture statistics: M. Beck-Domzalska, B. Félix, S. Frank, E. Gere, A. Götzfried, R. Hirno, L. Mejer, H. Wilén

F5 Health and food safety statistics: D. Dupré, S. Gagel, L. Llorens Abando, E. Niederlaender, E. Rohner-Thielen

F6 Information society and tourism statistics: G. Di Giacomo, M. Lumio, M. Ottens, M. Smihily

DIRECTORATE G: BUSINESS STATISTICS

G1 Structural business statistics: U. Johansson, P. Sneijers

G2 International trade statistics — methodology and classifications: J. Ala-Kihnia

G3 International trade statistics — production: A. Berthomieu, C. Corsini, G. Gambini

G4 Energy statistics: A. Gikas

G5 Transport statistics: G. Amerini, L. de La Fuente Layos, B. Milusheva, S. Pasi, H. Strelow

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (EFTA)

R. Ragnarson

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR TRANSLATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

(*) Units and responsibilities as of December 2006.

PREFACE

Democratic societies do not function properly without a solid basis of reliable and objective data. On the one hand, decision-makers at EU level and in the Member States, be they local governments or businesses, need statistical data to make informed decisions. On the other hand, the public, researchers and media refer increasingly to statistics for an accurate picture of society.

Europe in figures — Eurostat yearbook 2006-07 is divided into 14 main chapters which cover all major statistical domains, such as energy, population, education, health, living conditions and welfare, the labour market, the economy, international trade, industry and services, science and technology, the environment, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and European regions. The yearbook includes almost 400 statistical tables, graphs and maps, which are accompanied by information on related European policies, explanations of statistical concepts, and other useful information. At the same time, the yearbook is an introduction to European statistics and provides guidance to the vast range of data freely available from the Eurostat website.



Eurostat is the Statistical Office of the European Communities; it is situated in Luxembourg and was established in 1953 to meet the statistical requirements of the European Coal and Steel Community. When the European Community was founded in 1958, Eurostat became a directorate-general (DG) of the European Commission. Its role is to supply harmonised statistics first and foremost to other directorates-general and European institutions, in order to underpin the definition, implementation and analysis of Community policies, but also to the general public.

Eurostat gets most of its data from the national statistical authorities in the Member States. It then processes, analyses and publishes this data at a European level, following common statistical concepts, methods, and standards. Eurostat defines methodologies together with the Member States, consolidates the data collected in each country, ensures that it is harmonised and as comparable as possible, and then creates European aggregates for the EU Member States and the euro area⁽¹⁾. It then publishes most of this data and accompanying analyses on its website and in many cases also in the form of paper publications.

The role of Eurostat has changed and developed in line with Community policies. For example, in recent years economic and monetary statistics, and in particular a set of principal European economic indicators (PEEIs), have been developed to provide a rapid flow of information concerning the euro area to the European Central Bank, to aid monetary policy decision making. At the same time, Eurostat has supported and encouraged the development of statistical systems within the candidate countries, western Balkans, and European neighbourhood policy countries, driving a process of statistical harmonisation. Finally, policy indicators have been developed to monitor a wide range of issues, such as under the headings of structural and sustainable development indicators; these are used to monitor progress with respect to making the EU a sustainable, competitive and dynamic economy.

Eurostat's website, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, offers free access to nearly all of Eurostat's data, as well as to methodological information, and statistical publications in PDF format.

I hope this yearbook will encourage you to further explore the wealth of statistics available on the European Union, and to use Eurostat's data for your information needs and daily work.

Hervé Carré
Director-General, Eurostat

⁽¹⁾ This edition of the yearbook does not take into account the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union or the accession of Slovenia to the euro area as of 1 January 2007, as data was extracted and analysed in 2006.

INTRODUCTION	7
The Eurostat yearbook	7
Eurostat — the Statistical Office of the European Communities	9
A practical guide to accessing European statistics	10
IN THE SPOTLIGHT — ENERGY	13
Primary energy production and imports	16
Electricity generation	24
Consumption of energy	28
Prices	38
1. POPULATION	47
EU-25 population	50
EU population compared with other world regions	55
Life expectancy and mortality	59
Families and births	68
Migration and asylum	75
2. EDUCATION	81
School enrolment and levels of education	84
Foreign language learning	90
Tertiary education	92
Lifelong learning	94
Educational expenditure	96
3. HEALTH	99
Causes of deaths	102
Potential widespread causes for health problems	107
Healthcare	108
Safety at work	111
4. LIVING CONDITIONS AND WELFARE	113
Living conditions	116
Household consumption expenditure	119
Housing	122
Social protection	125
5. LABOUR MARKET	129
People in the labour market — employment	132
People in the labour market — unemployment	139
Labour market policy and public expenditure	144
6. ECONOMY	147
National accounts	151
Economic output	151
Consumption and spending	158
Income from input factors	160
Government finances	162
Exchange and interest rates	165
Balance of payments	170
Current account	170
Foreign direct investment	175
Prices and wages	180
Wages and labour costs	180
Consumer prices	187
Purchasing power parities	189

7. INTERNATIONAL TRADE	191
International trade in goods	194
International trade in services	203
8. INDUSTRY AND SERVICES	207
Business structures	210
Industry and construction	215
Services	221
Distributive trades	223
Transport	227
Tourism	236
9. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	239
Research and development	242
Personnel	243
Expenditure	249
Patents	252
Information society	254
Internet access and ICT expenditure	254
Telecommunications	261
10. ENVIRONMENT	267
Air pollution and climate change	270
Water	273
Waste	277
Environment and agriculture	279
Environmental expenditure	281
11. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES	283
Agriculture	286
Farm structure and land use	286
Agricultural output, price indices and income	291
Agricultural products	295
Forestry	297
Fisheries	302
12. EUROPE'S REGIONS	307
13. LINKING STATISTICS TO EUROPEAN POLICIES	317
Euro-Indicators	320
Structural indicators	321
Sustainable development indicators	322
ANNEXES	325
Glossary	326
NUTS (nomenclature of territorial units for statistics) and statistical regions	351
NACE (classification of economic activities in the European Community)	355
SITC (standard international trade classification)	356
Statistical symbols, abbreviations and acronyms	357
Copyright of photographs	361
Subject index	362
Selection of other Eurostat publications	370

THE EUROSTAT YEARBOOK

Europe in figures — *Eurostat yearbook 2006-07* provides users of official statistics with an overview of the wealth of information that is available on Eurostat's website and within its online databases. It belongs to a set of general compendium publications and, of these, it provides the most extensive set of analyses and detailed data. *Europe in figures* has been conceived as a publication that provides a balanced set of indicators, with a broad cross-section of information.

STRUCTURE OF THE PUBLICATION

Europe in figures is divided into an introduction, 14 main chapters and eight annexes. The main chapters contain data and/or background information relating to particular topics, starting with a spotlight chapter on energy. Each chapter (or sub-chapter) of the publication starts with a small introduction containing background information and policy relevance, as well as some details regarding the collection and interpretation of data; this is followed by a commentary on the data. The main focus of each chapter is a set of tables and graphs that have been selected to show the wide variety of data available for that particular topic; often these include information on how important benchmark indicators have developed during recent years within the EU, its Member States and the euro area.

Users will find a great deal more information when consulting the Eurostat website (see page 10 for more details on how to access the Eurostat website) — either in the form of more detailed subject-specific publications or in terms of the data available within Eurostat's online databases.

The annexes contain a glossary of statistical terms, a list of geographical regions (NUTS), a list of economic activities (NACE), a list of product categories for trade statistics (SITC), a list of statistical symbols, abbreviations and acronyms, and a subject index.

CD-ROM AND SECTION ON THE EUROSTAT WEBSITE

The paper version of the yearbook is accompanied by a CD-ROM which contains the full yearbook content in PDF format, as well as all tables and graphs in Excel format. In addition, the Eurostat website offers a specific section in relation to the yearbook which contains the PDF version of the publication as well as PDF files of other compendium publications.

DATA EXTRACTION AND COVERAGE

The statistical data presented in the yearbook were extracted at the end of June and start of July 2006 and represent data availability at that time. The accompanying text was drafted during August and September 2006.

Note that when presenting a time-series, the data are generally presented for the latest 11 years for which information is available. Longer time-series will usually be available when consulting Eurostat's online databases.

The tables and graphs generally show all of the country information that has been collected for each subset of data. This publication generally presents information for the 25 Member States of the European Union (EU-25), the EU-15, the euro area, as well as the individual Member States. The EU-25, EU-15 and euro area aggregates are only provided when information for all of the countries is available, or if an estimate has been made for missing information. Any partial totals that are created are systematically footnoted with respect to the missing components of the geographical aggregate in question.

Time-series for geographical aggregates are based on a consistent set of countries for the whole of the time period shown (unless otherwise indicated). In other words, although the EU has only had 25 Member States since the start of 2004, the time-series for EU-25 refer to a sum or an average for all 25 countries for the whole of the period presented, as if all 25 Member States had been part of the EU in earlier periods. In a similar vein, the data for the euro area are consistently presented for all 12 members, despite the later accession of Greece to the euro area. As such, unless otherwise stated, the data for the euro area covers the 12 Member States that share the euro as a common currency (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland) for each reference year.

The order of the EU Member States used in the Eurostat yearbook generally follows their order of protocol; in other words, the alphabetical order of the countries' names in their respective native languages; in some graphs the data are ranked according to the values of a particular indicator. This edition of the yearbook does not take into account either the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union or the accession of Slovenia to the euro area at the start of 2007, as data was extracted and analysed in 2006.

When available, information is also presented for the (at time of writing) candidate countries of Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, and Turkey, for other EEA/EFTA countries, as well as for Japan and the United States. In the event that non member countries did not provide data, then these have been excluded from the tables and graphs in an attempt to save space; however, the full set of 25 Member States is maintained in tables and graphs even when data are not available, with footnotes for those countries for which information is missing. In the event that a reference year is not available for a particular country, then efforts have been made to fill tables and graphs with previous reference years (again these exceptions are footnoted).

THE NEW EUROSTAT DATA CODE

A new code (such as 'TEN00076') has been inserted above and to the right of many graphs and tables in the yearbook. This code allows the reader to easily access the most recent data on the Eurostat website (note that the data on the website is frequently updated and may also be more detailed or have a different measurement unit). To access the data, enter the code into the quick search field on the Eurostat website and click on 'Search'. For more details, consult the frequently asked questions (FAQ) on the Eurostat website.

STATISTICAL SYMBOLS

Statistical data are often accompanied by additional information in form of statistical symbols (also called 'flags') to indicate missing or in some way problematic data. In this yearbook, the use of statistical symbols has been restricted to a minimum. The following symbols are included where necessary:

:	Not available, confidential or unreliable value
-	Not applicable or zero by default
0	Less than half the final digit shown and greater than real zero

NB: flags for estimates, revised values, and provisional data have been removed in order to improve the readability of the information presented. Readers who are interested in such detailed additional information may consult Eurostat's website (see page 11 for more details). Breaks in series are indicated in the footnotes provided with each table and graph. Forecasts are also indicated through the addition of footnotes. In the case of the EU Member States, even when data are not available, these countries have been included in tables and graphs systematically (with appropriate footnotes for graphs indicating that data are not available, while in tables use has been made of the colon (:)) to indicate that data are not available. For non-member countries outside of the EU, when data are not available for a particular indicator the country has been removed from tables or graphs.

EUROSTAT — THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Eurostat is the Statistical Office of the European Communities, situated in Luxembourg. Its task is to provide the European Union with statistics at European level that enable comparisons between countries and regions. Eurostat's mission is 'to provide the European Union with a high-quality statistical information service'. To meet this challenge, Eurostat aims:

- to implement a set of standards, methods and organisational structures which allow comparable, reliable and relevant statistics to be produced throughout the Community, in line with the principles of the European statistics code of practice;
- to provide the European institutions and the governments of the Member States with the information needed to implement, monitor and evaluate Community policies;
- to disseminate statistics to the European public and enterprises and to all economic and social agents involved in decision-making, and;
- to facilitate the improvement of the statistical systems of the Member States and support developing countries, as well as the countries moving towards a market economy.

As one of the directorate-generals of the European Commission, Eurostat is headed by a director-general. Under him are seven Directors responsible for different areas of activity (Directorates as of December 2006):

- A. Resources;
- B. Statistical methods and tools; dissemination;
- C. National and European accounts;
- D. Economic and regional statistics;
- E. Agriculture and environment statistics; statistical co-operation;
- F. Social statistics and information society;
- G. Business statistics.

In 2005, Eurostat had around 800 posts; of these some 612 were civil servants, 64 were seconded national experts, and 124 had other types of contract. Eurostat's budget was around EUR 56 million in 2003 (excluding costs of statutory staff) of which EUR 41 million were budgeted for the implementation of the statistical programme. In addition, a budget of EUR 38 million was sub-delegated to Eurostat by other directorates-general.

Since the early days of the European Communities, there was a realisation that the planning and implementation of Community policies must be based on reliable and comparable statistics. As a result, the European statistical system (ESS) was built-up gradually to provide comparable statistics at an EU level. For this purpose, Eurostat does not work alone. The ESS comprises Eurostat and the statistical offices, ministries, agencies and central banks that collect official statistics in the EU Member States, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein (you can find the contact details and Internet addresses of all members of the ESS by choosing ESS from the list of activities presented on the right-hand menu of the Eurostat homepage and then selecting National Statistical Institutes). The ESS functions as a network in which Eurostat's role is to lead the way in the harmonisation of

statistics in close cooperation with the national statistical authorities. At the heart of the European statistical system is the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC), which brings together the heads of Member States' national statistical offices and is chaired by Eurostat. The SPC discusses joint actions and programmes to be carried out to meet EU information requirements. It agrees a five-year programme, which is implemented by the national authorities and monitored by Eurostat.

INFORMATION FOR A MODERN SOCIETY — IMPARTIALITY AND OBJECTIVITY

To actively participate in a democratic Europe, public administrations, researchers, trade unions, businesses and political parties, among others, need high-quality, impartial, reliable and comparable statistical data. These actors need to be able to access data without exclusion: in other words, no key information should be withheld from particular citizens, enterprises or public bodies. Rather, each of these should have equal access to the data available. Eurostat and its partners in the ESS provide equal opportunities to access a wide range of comprehensive information on social, economic and environmental developments in Europe, through providing free access to data on the Eurostat website.

Today's information society is characterised by the rapid transfer and sheer scale of data flows. While access to and the transfer of information has grown exponentially, the reliability of information cannot always be guaranteed. Access to reliable and high-quality statistics and Eurostat's trustworthiness is enshrined in law, as Article 285(2) of the EC Treaty says: '*The production of Community statistics shall conform to impartiality, reliability, objectivity, scientific independence, cost-effectiveness and statistical confidentiality; it shall not entail excessive burdens on economic operators*'. These are principles upon which Eurostat's day-to-day work are based.

It is easier for people to understand each other if they know about each other's conditions of life and work, and they have information on trends that are developing within society as a whole. Comparisons, however, require comparable statistics that, in turn, demand the use of a common '*statistical language*'. This common language has to embrace concepts, methods and definitions, as well as technical standards and infrastructures, often referred to by statisticians as harmonisation. This is Eurostat's *raison d'être* — and sums up what the ESS is all about.

The data that are collected, harmonised and reported upon by Eurostat have been agreed through a well-defined political process at the European level in which the Member States are deeply involved. Most surveys and data collection exercises are based on European regulations or directives that are legally binding.

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO ACCESSING EUROSTAT STATISTICS

The simplest way of accessing Eurostat's broad range of statistical information is through the Eurostat website (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>).

Since 1 October 2004 Eurostat has provided users with free access to its Internet databases and all of its publications in PDF format. The website is updated daily and provides direct access to the latest and most comprehensive statistical information available on the European Union and the Member States. The information published on the website is available in German, English and French and it can all be downloaded free of charge.

For full access to all of the services available through the website, it is recommended that users should take a few moments to register from the homepage. Registration is free of charge and allows access to:

- tailor-made e-mail alerts informing you of new publications as soon as they are online;
- access enhanced functionalities of the databases (save queries and make bulk downloads).

The information on the website is structured according to a set of 'themes', which may be accessed from the left-hand menu bar of the homepage, providing access to:


- general and regional statistics
- economy and finance;
- population and social conditions;
- industry, trade and services;
- agriculture and fisheries;
- external trade;
- transport;
- environment and energy;
- science and technology.

Within each of these themes the user is initially presented with the possibility of accessing information relating to (pre-defined) tables, data(bases), methodology or publications, by means of a series of tabbed pages. Those users who are not able to limit their search by statistical theme can enter the website through a series of tabs in the middle of the homepage which provide access to the full range of tables, data, methodology and publications.

Eurostat's homepage

TABLES

The most important indicators may be found in the form of pre-defined tables. Pre-defined tables can be accessed through the Eurostat data tree or from the homepage for each of the nine statistical themes detailed above. Pre-defined tables are generally presented for a single indicator, with European aggregates and data for the Member States on the y-axis and time on the x-axis. The data are selected from key EU policy indicators, including short-term economic data, long-term indicators, structural indicators, and sustainable development indicators. Some of the most important indicators that are produced in this format are listed below:


- **Euro-Indicators** — this is a collection of fresh, monthly and quarterly data, used to evaluate the economic situation within the euro area and the EU. Euro-Indicators are updated daily and the publication of key figures is announced as part of Eurostat's release calendar that is available on the Eurostat website (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/url/page/PGP_RELEASE/PGE_DS_RELEASE). More information relating to Euro-Indicators is provided on page 320.
- **Structural indicators** () — these are used to assess the longer-term progress being made within the EU in the domains of employment, innovation and research, economic reform, social cohesion, and the environment, as well as the general economic background; they are most relevant for political debate with respect to the Lisbon objectives (more information including an abbreviated listing of key structural indicators is provided on page 321).
- **Sustainable development indicators** — a sustainable development strategy was adopted by the European Council in Gothenburg in June 2001, and renewed in June 2006; it aims to reconcile economic development, social cohesion and protection of the environment. Monitoring progress towards this goal is an essential part of the strategy, while a parallel objective is to inform the general public about progress in attaining the commonly agreed objectives of sustainable development (more information including an abbreviated listing of key sustainable development indicators is provided on page 322).

DATA

More detailed statistics and larger volumes of data can be downloaded from the Internet databases (also called 'open tables') which allow the user to select the information he/she is interested in through a number of selection screens for each dimension of the data set; the data can be extracted in a variety of formats (text files, HTML, Excel, etc.). Open tables can be accessed through the Eurostat data tree or from the homepage for each of the nine statistical themes detailed above, under the heading of 'Data'. Today more than 300 million data cells are presented in Eurostat's databases.

METHODOLOGY

The Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) format, established by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1996 to guide members in the provision of their economic data to the public, is a standard already adopted by 57 countries (including almost all of the Member States). The use of the SDDS format within Eurostat was implemented after a decision of the Eurostat Board on 7 January 2004.

Meta-data may be accessed either from the heading 'Methodology' or directly from the data tree, when browsing the database, as an icon () is used to alert users to the availability of additional information.

PUBLICATIONS

Eurostat produces a variety of publications, both for non-experts and specialists. All of these are available on the Eurostat website in PDF format, free of charge. As with the data, the publications are organised under Eurostat's nine statistical themes. There are a variety of different types of publication, ranging from news releases to more in-depth analyses in the form of the statistical books collection. Among the most interesting collections are:

- *News releases* — rapid updates providing information about the release of new key data on the EU;
- *Statistics in focus and Data in focus* — these are relatively short publications which present up-to-date summaries of the main results of statistical surveys, studies and analyses;
- *Pocketbooks* — these handy pocket-sized publications present main indicators for a particular theme in a concise format;
- *Statistical books* — a collection of comprehensive studies (including titles previously published under the heading of detailed tables); these publications are usually quite lengthy and provide analyses, tables and graphs for one or more statistical domains;
- *Methodologies and working papers* — intended for specialists who want to consult methodologies, nomenclatures, or specific studies for a particular data set.

All PDF versions of these products are available for consultation and download via the Eurostat website. Alternatively, some Eurostat publications are also printed or made available on CD-ROM or DVD; these can be ordered from the website of the EU bookshop (see <http://bookshop.europa.eu>) or through sales agents in the Member States. The bookshop is managed by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (see <http://publications.europa.eu>).

SUPPORT FOR INTERNET USERS

Eurostat and the other members of the European statistical system, have set-up a system of user support centres for Internet users. These exist in nearly all of the Member States, as well as some EFTA countries. In order to offer the best possible and personalised support, requests should always be addressed to the relevant national support centre. The mission of each centre is to provide additional help and guidance to users who are having difficulty in finding the statistical data they require. More information is available on the Eurostat website at (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/url/page/PGP_DS_SUPPORT).

EUROSTAT'S SERVICE FOR JOURNALISTS

Statistics make news and they are essential to many stories, features and in-depth analyses. Printed media, as well as radio and TV, use Eurostat data intensively. Eurostat's press office puts out user-friendly news releases on a key selection of data covering the EU, the euro area, the Member States and their partners. All Eurostat news releases are available free of charge on the Eurostat website at 11 a.m. on the day they are released. About 170 press releases have been published in the last year, of which the majority were based on monthly or quarterly Euro-Indicators. The press office also coordinates press briefings on important statistical results and events.

Eurostat's media support centre helps professional journalists find data on all kinds of topics. Journalists can contact media support for further information on news releases and other data (tel. (352) 43 01-33408; fax (352) 43 01-35349; e-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu).