



Contents

INTRODUCTION	9
Only regional statistics give the complete picture	10
The NUTS classification	10
Coverage	10
More regional information	10
Data extraction.....	11
1 POPULATION	13
Unveiling the regional pattern of demography	14
The drivers behind population change	14
Demographic ageing: the situation today	17
... and its impact in the future	21
<i>Methodological notes</i>	23
2 GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	25
Large regional disparities in GDP per inhabitant.....	26
Cohesion policy 2007–13	26
GDP growth is accelerating outside the EU's core.....	28
The EU is converging but what is happening within Member States?	28
Conclusion.....	31
<i>Methodological notes</i>	31
3 HOUSEHOLD ACCOUNTS.....	35
Introduction: measuring wealth.....	36
Private household income	36
Results for 2004	36
Primary income	36
Disposable income.....	37
Dynamic development on the edge of the Union	42
Executive summary.....	42
<i>Data availability</i>	45
4 LABOUR MARKET	47
EU employment objectives	48
Target 1: Overall employment rate above 67 %	48
Target 2: Female employment rate above 57 %	51
Target 3: Older workers above 50 %	51
Gender gap narrowing	53
Unemployment	56
Conclusion	59
<i>Methodological notes</i>	59
<i>Definitions</i>	59



5 LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY	61
Introduction	62
Still considerable differences in regional labour productivity	62
Differing productivity growth rates are leading to increased convergence	62
Labour productivity in manufacturing industry and the services sector	65
Conclusion	67
<i>Methodological notes</i>	70
6 URBAN STATISTICS.....	73
Introduction	74
Measuring quality of life in cities	74
The spatial units	74
Time	74
Indicators.....	74
Exploring the patterns of population change	74
The perceived picture	81
Beyond the growth rates.....	81
7 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION.....	85
Introduction	86
Research and development	86
Human resources in science and technology.....	89
High-tech industries and knowledge-intensive services	89
Patents	92
Patstat	92
Patenting in the regions	92
Conclusion	94
<i>Methodological notes</i>	95
8 STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS.....	97
Introduction	98
The most specialised regions in different activities	98
Specialisation in business services	100
Employment growth in business services	103
Characteristics of the top 30 most specialised regions in business services	107
Conclusion	107
<i>Methodological notes</i>	109
9 TRANSPORT	111
Introduction	112
Transport infrastructure	112
Transport equipment.....	112
Maritime transport	115
Road freight.....	117
Air transport	119



Conclusion	119
<i>Methodological notes</i>	121
10 TOURISM	123
Introduction	124
Accommodation capacity	124
Capacity utilisation data	126
Tourism intensity	128
The development of tourism 2000–05	128
Inbound international tourism	130
Outlook	130
<i>Methodological notes</i>	133
11 EDUCATION	135
Introduction	136
Participation of 4-year-olds in education	136
Students in upper secondary education and post-secondary non-tertiary education	136
Students in tertiary education	138
Tertiary educational attainment	141
Participation in lifelong learning	141
Conclusion	141
<i>Methodological notes</i>	144
12 AGRICULTURE	147
Introduction	148
Contribution of agriculture to GDP	148
Labour productivity of agriculture	148
Income diversification in the farming community	151
Use of chemicals in agriculture	151
Agricultural productivity	151
Conclusion	155
<i>Methodological notes</i>	157
ANNEX	159
European Union: NUTS 2 regions	159
EFTA countries: Statistical regions at level 2	162