



UNECE Weekly

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It's just happened ...

Joint ECE-EUROSTAT Work Session on Migration Statistics, 28-30 April

The Work Session, organized in cooperation with the UN Statistics Division, aimed to help countries exchange experiences on the methods and techniques used for the collection, processing and dissemination of data on migration statistics, and to progress towards improved comparability of international migration statistics. The meeting discussed the first results on international migration from the 2000 round of population censuses;

estimates of undocumented migration; synergies between international migration statistics and statistics on other topics relevant to policy needs. The work session proposed that its future work should focus on lessons learned from the past, with reference to implementation of the UN Recommendations on international migration statistics and, in particular, to recent experiences with the 2000 round of population and housing censuses.

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Joint UNECE/OPEC Seminar on the Application of UNFC

The UNECE and OPEC secretariats organized on 6 May, at the OPEC Headquarters in Vienna, a joint Seminar on the Application of the UN Framework Classification for Energy Resources, to consider whether and how it could be applied to OPEC Member States. The Seminar was opened by Mr. Alvaro Silva Calderon, OPEC Secretary General. The programme focused on the demonstration of the main advantages of UNFC as an uniform instrument for harmonizing definitions of energy commodities (oil, natural gas, coal and uranium); making them internationally comparable and compatible; easing their assessment on a common basis and principles; supporting international accounting and financial reporting standards; enforcing regulations related to sustainable management of energy resources. In



September the OPEC Economic Commission Board will consider its Member States' response regarding their official position on the application of UNFC to their country oil/natural gas deposits. A joint OPEC/UNECE Regional Seminar may subsequently be organized, possibly in partnership with ESCWA, for Middle East OPEC Member States.

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Knowledge Economy Assessment Gathers Momentum

At the UNECE Expert Group Meeting on Knowledge Economy Assessment (Geneva, 24-25 April) representatives from the European Commission, WTO, UNDP, World Bank and government officials from the UNECE region reviewed a range of existing benchmarking indicators, including eEurope2005 indicators, statistical indicators

benchmarking the information society, the Harvard ICT index and World Bank knowledge economy indicators. The meeting also examined the linkages between newly emerging technologies, intellectual capital and economic development and explored the government policy and regulatory framework needed to establish a national knowledge economy regime.

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Off the press ...

Trade Facilitation: the Challenges for Growth and Development includes some of the presentations given at the 2002 International Forum on Trade Facilitation. With concerns growing about the widening gaps among countries eager to participate in international trade, the Forum provided a neutral setting where decision-makers from both the public and private sector could discuss their experiences and concerns. The 332-page publication covers a variety of issues, ranging from how to implement trade facilitation to Customs and the fight against corruption. - Price: US\$ 30.

Trade Finance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in CIS Countries, Trade and Investment Guide No.7. These practical guides are intended to familiarize countries in economic transition with best practices in trade and investment, and related legal and commercial practices. They are also useful for people engaged in trade or investment with these countries. This 77-page guide covers such issues as payment and credit arrangements, government support for SMEs, and the banking perspective. - Price: US\$ 15
Available from the UN Publications Sales and Marketing Section, Palais des Nations, Geneva.
e-mail: unpubli@unog.ch

Coming up soon ...

12-13 May	Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (CEFACT)
13 & 16 May	Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development
14-15 May	International Forum on Trade Facilitation
15 (pm) May	Workshop on Technical Issues on Trade Facilitation
15-16	Ad hoc Meeting on Harmonization of Sustainable Urban and Regional Transport Statistics (Prague, Czech Republic)

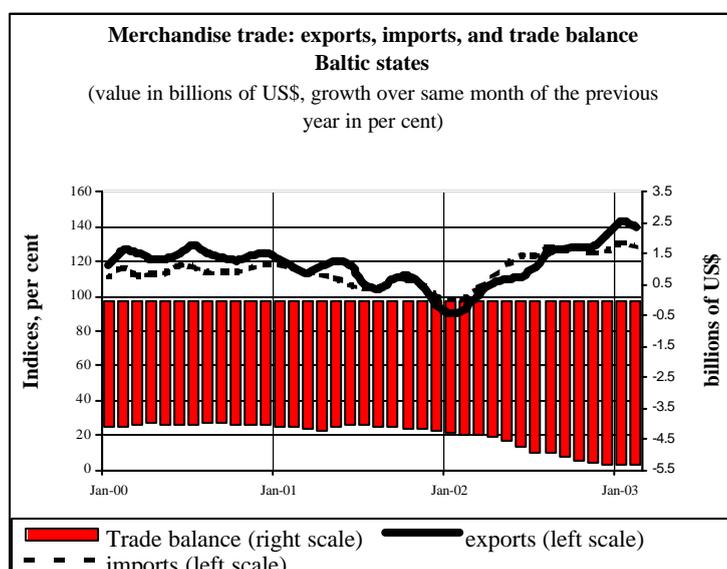
The UN/CEFACT Plenary session, 12-13 May, will discuss trade facilitation policy and recommendations, development of intellectual property rights policy and e-business standards for UN/EDIFACT and ebXML (electronic business eXpandable Markup Language). Website: <http://www.unece.org/cefact>

The Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, 13 & 16 May, will discuss how it can best address the challenges in the region and particularly those related to the further integration into the regional and global economy of those European countries that are not acceding to the European Union in the near future, and hear presentations on current approaches to implementing trade facilitation, covering examples of successes and obstacles experienced,

approaches to overcoming these obstacles, and considerations for future plans and priorities.

The International Forum on Trade Facilitation "Sharing the Gains of Globalization in the New Security Environment", 14-15 May, provides an opportunity for representatives of international organizations, Governments, businesses, trade associations and the academic community to meet and exchange ideas on facilitating trade both regionally and globally. Harmonized trade facilitation procedures will help trading partners work together more easily, increase the flow of trade in a secure environment and help countries better participate in regional and global marketplaces. Website: <http://www.unece.org/trade/forums/forum03/index.htm>

Facts and figures:



Source: UNECE Economic Analysis Division, secretariat computations based on national statistics.

Notes: Trade balances are cumulated over 12 months; growth for exports and imports of goods is based on three-months moving averages of monthly values. The three Baltic States are Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

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