

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

The purpose of the Bulletin of Housing Statistics for Europe and North America is to provide basic annual data on trends in the field of housing in European countries, Canada, and the United States of America. The scope of the statistics comprises population and households, dwelling stock, new dwellings, value of construction, and production of building materials.

The title of the Bulletin has been revised to exclude building statistics according to the recommendation of a consultation organized to coordinate international work on housing statistics, and to improve the ECE housing bulletin to meet the interest of the ECE member states. The ECE Commission approved the recommendation. The title now reads "Bulletin of Housing Statistics for Europe and North America".

Annex I shows the country names and national currency units in English. The currency units listed are those that were used to measure the value of construction put in place as reported by the countries. In the case of France, Luxembourg, and Portugal, they reported in the new currency unit "Euro".

### Sources

The statistics appearing in this bulletin are compiled by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe from replies to the ECE housing questionnaire supplied by the national statistical offices of the countries, or from official national publications. Other international sources, when used, are indicated for each table.

### Comparability of data

Data are given according to the commonly agreed definitions, which have been worked out under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians and the Committee on Human Settlements of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (see Annex II). Where individual series differ fundamentally from the agreed definitions and/or the coverage is incomplete, this is indicated in footnotes when known to the secretariat.

### Time period

The statistics are presented in the form of chronological series. In most tables the figures refer to the year 1993 and to 1997 and the most recent calendar years.

### Units of measurement

The units of measurement are indicated in each table.

### Rounding

Where necessary, each figure has been rounded off to the nearest final digit. For this reason, there may occur in some series an apparent slight discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the totals shown.

### Symbols and abbreviations employed

- .. = Not applicable.
- ... = Not available.
- 0 = Magnitude not zero, but less than half of unit employed.
- m<sup>2</sup> = Square metre.
- m<sup>3</sup> = Cubic metre.
- tonne = Metric ton.