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**THE UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION INDUSTRIAL COMMODITY
STATISTICS YEARBOOK AND ITS UNDERLYING CLASSIFICATION**

by

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UNITED NATIONS



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The UN Statistics Division Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook and Its Underlying Classification

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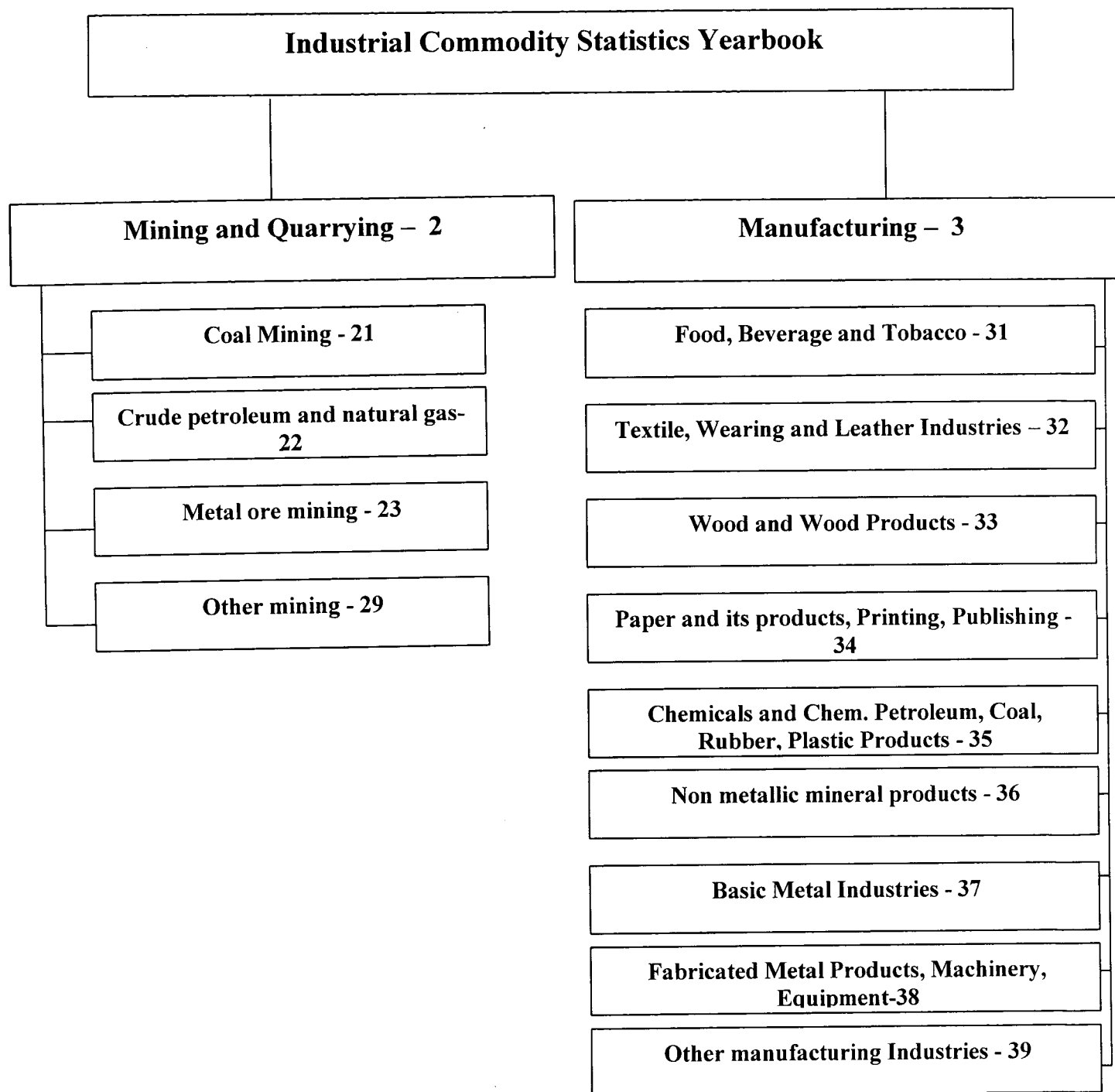
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The thirty-third issue of the UNSD Industrial commodity statistics yearbook is to be published soon. It holds the title "Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook" since 1992 when, following the decision made by the Statistical Commission, collection and dissemination of general industrial statistics became the responsibility of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and UNSD focused its activities on the collection and dissemination of industrial commodity statistics.

The publication contains volume data on the annual production of industrial commodities by country, geographic region, economic grouping and world total. A standard list of about 530 commodities has been adopted for the publication. The 1999 edition of the publication will refer to the 10-year period 1990-1999.

The structural organisation of the yearbook is displayed on the next page. The coding of the commodities is based on the codes of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities ISIC Rev.2. Each commodity is identified by a 6 digit number. The first four digits refer to the pertinent ISIC industry group of which the commodity is a principle product. The remaining two digits indicate the position of the item within the set of commodities pertaining to this industry group.

As a hierarchy, each group (4 digit level) belongs to a major group (3 digit level). Each major group belongs to a division (2 digit level) and each division to a major division (1 digit level).



The yearbook covers Major Divisions 2 (Mining and Quarrying) and 3 (Manufacturing), according to the ISIC Rev 2. The yearbook is completed with three additional tables which belong to the Major Division 4 – Electricity, Gas and Water

of ISIC Rev. 2. These tables (not included in the graphical presentation above) are the following:

- 1- Total Production of Electricity: 4101-01
- 2- Electricity production by Public Utilities: 4101-02
- 3- Gasworks Gas: 4102-02B

For **Divisions 21 and 22**, data are extracted from the Energy database (these data are collected through the energy statistics questionnaire of UNSD). Data are published on Coal, Lignite/Brown Coal, Crude Petroleum, Natural Gasoline and Natural Gas (including LNG).

Division 23 - Metal Ore Mining, a Major Group in itself, is further divided into two groups:

- 2301, Iron ore mining
- 2302, Non-ferrous ore mining

UNSD publishes data on minerals as: Iron, Copper, Nickel, Bauxite, Zinc, Tin, Manganese, Chromium, Tungsten, Ilmenite, Molybdenum, Tantalum, Niobium, Vanadium, Zirconium, Antimony, Cobalt, Mercury, Silver, Uranium, Gold.

In some of the cases gross weight data while in other cases metal content data are published, always in physical quantities.

Division 29 – Other Mining, a Major Group in itself, is further divided into 4 Groups:

- 2901, Stone quarrying, clay and sand pits
- 2902, Chemical and fertilizer mineral mining
- 2903, Salt mining
- 2909, Mining and quarrying not elsewhere specified

Major Division 3 is further classified into 9 divisions. Each and every of these divisions is divided into further major groups and the major groups into groups. ISIC is an activity classification and every further splitting into more detailed groupings basically means splitting one aggregate activity into more detailed activities.

Division 31 – Manufacturing of Food, Beverages and Tobacco- is further divided into four Major Groups:

- 311, 312, Food Manufacturing
- 313, Beverage Industries
- 314, Tobacco Manufacturing

Each and every of these Major Groups is further divided into groups.

Division 32 – Textile, Wearing Apparel and Leather Industries, is further divided into four Major Groups:

- 321, Manufacture of textiles
- 322, Manufacture of wearing apparel, except footwear
- 323, Manufacture of leather and products of leather, leather substitutes and fur, except footwear and wearing apparel
- 324, Manufacture of footwear, except vulcanized or molded rubber or plastic footwear

Division 33 – Manufacture of Wood and Wood products including furniture is further divided into two Major Groups:

- 331, Manufacture of wood and wood and cork products, except furniture
- 332, Manufacture of furniture and fixtures, except primarily of metal

Division 34 – Manufacture of Paper and Paper Products, Printing and Publishing is divided into two Major Groups:

- 341, Manufacture of paper and paper products
- 342, Printing, publishing and allied industries

Division 35 – Manufacture of Chemicals and Chemical Petroleum, Coal, Rubber and Plastic Products, is further divided into six Major Groups:

- 351, Manufacture of Industrial Chemicals
- 352, Manufacture of other Chemical Products
- 353, Petroleum Refineries
- 354, Manufacture of Miscellaneous Products of Petroleum and Coal
- 355, Manufacture of Rubber Products
- 356, Manufacture of Plastic Products not elsewhere classified

Division 36 – Manufacture of non-metallic Mineral Products, except Products of Petroleum and Coal is further divided into three Major Groups:

- 361, Manufacture of pottery, china and earthenware
- 362, Manufacture of glass and glass products
- 369, Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products

Division 37 – Basic Metal Industries is further divided into two Major Groups:

- 371, Iron and steel basic industries
- 372, Non-ferrous metal basic industries

Division 38 – Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products, Machinery and Equipment is further divided into two Major Groups:

- 381, Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment
- 382, Manufacture of machinery except electrical
- 383, Manufacture of electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances and supplies
- 384, Manufacture of transport equipment
- 385, Manufacture of professional and scientific, and measuring and controlling equipment not elsewhere classified, and of photographic and optical goods

Division 39 – Other Manufacturing Industries comprises one Major group in itself and includes all what is left; like the manufacture of jewelry, musical instruments, sporting and athletic goods and other manufacturing not elsewhere specified.

THE PROCESS OF DATA COLLECTION AND THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The data for the yearbook are collected through the “Questionnaire on industrial commodity production statistics” that is usually mailed out by mid-November to 177 countries all over the world. Countries are expected to return the completed questionnaire by March of the following year. Reminders are sent to those countries who do not reply in due time. (This year two reminders were sent; one on March 26th and the other on May 8th. Both of them were sent by fax and by e-mail.)

There is a time lag of two years between the reference year and the year of publication. The forthcoming 1999 edition covers the decade 1990-1999.

The questionnaires sent to the countries are pre-filled from the Industrial statistics database with the following information:

- name and the code of each country,
- the ISIC Rev 2 codes and the names of commodities on which data are requested (the energy commodities do not appear in the questionnaire),
- the standard unit of measurement of commodities (or a non-standard one, depending on the country response) – these are always physical units,
- data for the last four years that appear for each commodity in the database and an empty column for the current year for which the data are sought; the data printed for the latest four years available would allow countries to make any revisions or changes they might have made to their statistics in that period.

The national data submitted by the national statistical offices are the primary data-source of the database. If the pattern of national data does not seem regular or consistent, effort is made to find an explanation for the irregularity, usually by sending the countries an addendum and consulting with them.

DATA STORAGE, EDITING AND COMPILATION: BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DATABASE

The data collected through the questionnaires are validated and stored in the Industrial Commodity Database. The database contains data from 1958 up to the present for each country and for each commodity for each year when data were

available. For each country the database contains the full list of the commodities belonging to the groups, major groups, divisions and major divisions 2, 3 and some of 4th major division of ISIC Rev 2. The tables published in the yearbook cover only a part of the database, according to the list of commodities adopted for the purposes of the publication.

As a reference material the database contains

- The Footnotes,
- The Units of Measurement,
- The Country Registry,
- The Commodities.

The Footnotes are registered with the code and their definition in English and French. New footnotes can be created and can be included in the database upon the need.

The Units of measurement are the units that UNSD uses to measure the production data. They are registered in the database with their name and their code.

The Country Registry contains all the information pertaining to a country, which is relevant to our needs. So it has the country code, the region code, the name of the country in English and French, whether a questionnaire is printed and sent out to the country or not, whether the questionnaire is limited or full in scope and is in English or in French.

For each Commodity the code, the name in English, French and Spanish as well as the general note together with the corresponding code in SITC Rev 3 are kept under the reference material.

The database is a very important tool. In fact every step during the process of producing the Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook is carried out through the use of the database. The questionnaires sent out to the countries are printed from the database; the tables of the yearbook are also printed from the database.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ESCWA REGION WITH REGARD TO INDUSTRIAL COMMODITY STATISTICS

Five ESCWA member countries have responded to the industrial commodity questionnaire for the 1999 edition meanwhile the response rate was fluctuating in the past decade in the region.

SOME CLASSIFICATION ISSUES: ISIC Rev 2 AND ISIC Rev 3

The original version of the **International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)** was adopted in 1948. At that time the Economic and Social Council approved a resolution in which among others it is recommended that all Member Governments make use of the **International Standard Industrial Classification** of All Economic Activities either by:

- (a) Adopting this system of classification as a national standard, or
- (b) Rearranging their statistical data in accordance with this system for purposes of international comparability.

Wide use has been made, nationally and internationally, of the ISIC in the classification of data according to kind of economic activity in the fields of population, production, employment, national income and other economic statistics.

Experience in the use of ISIC has revealed the need for periodically reviewing the structure and definition of the categories as well as the underlying principles of the classification.

The first revision of ISIC was issued in 1958; the second was considered by the fifteenth session of Statistical Commission in February-March 1968. The ISIC Rev.2 was published in 1971. The revision took into consideration the significant changes that had taken place during the decade prior to its publication.

The third revision of ISIC was considered and approved by the Statistical Commission in February 1989. The Revision aimed at:

- Harmonizing the international economic classifications developed by different international organizations. In this respect, maintaining co-ordination among ISIC, the General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (NACE), the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) of the Customs Co-operation Council, The Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), the new Central Product Classification (CPC), etc.
- Making possible the data comparability for various statistics classified according to kind of economic activity or goods and services,
- Including the technological developments related to the manufacture of the data processing equipment and the need to cover in greater detail many different kinds of service related activities.

There are also other considerations not stated here which brought about the third revision of ISIC.

Experience shows that on a global level the adoption of ISIC Rev 3 is gaining more and more ground. Consideration should be taken therefore in the near future about a conversion into ISIC Rev 3.