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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The following symbols have been used throughout this *Survey*:

- .. = not available or not pertinent
- = nil or negligible
- * = estimate by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe
- | = break in series

In referring to a combination of years, the use of an oblique stroke (e.g. 1998/99) signifies a 12-month period (say, from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999). The use of a hyphen (e.g. 1999-2001) normally signifies either an average of, or a total for, the full period of calendar years covered (including the end-years indicated).

Unless the contrary is stated, the standard unit of weight used throughout is the metric ton. The definition of “billion” used throughout is a thousand million. The definition of “trillion” used throughout is a thousand billion. Minor discrepancies in totals and percentages are due to rounding.

References to dollars (\$) are to United States dollars unless otherwise specified.

The membership of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) consists of all the states of western Europe, eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), North America and Israel.

The term EU refers to the aggregate of the 15 current member states of the European Union, i.e. Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

EU-25 refers to the 15 current member states plus the 10 countries which will be joining the European Union in May 2004, i.e. Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

For the convenience in presentation, the countries of eastern Europe and the CIS are sometimes grouped into subregions based on geographical proximity.

For historic reasons, the group of countries denoted as *Eastern Europe* refers to the former centrally planned economies (and their successor states) in this part of the ECE region and comprises the following subregions:

- Baltic states (BS-3): Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania;
- Central Europe (CE-5): Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia;
- South-east Europe (SEE-7): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The Commonwealth of Independent States comprises the Russian Federation and the following subregions:

- Caucasian CIS (CCIS-3): Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia;
- Central Asian CIS (CACIS-5): Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan;
- European CIS, excluding Russia (ECIS-3): Belarus, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
BEC	broad economic category
BIS	Bank for International Settlements
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CEPR	Center for Economic Policy Research
CETE	central European transition economies
c.i.f.	cost, insurance, freight
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CIT	corporate income tax
CMEA	(former) Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
CPI	consumer price index
DIW	Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECB	European Central Bank
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOFIN	Economic and Finance Council of Ministers (of the EU)
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIU	Economist Intelligence Unit
EMU	Economic and Monetary Union
EPZ	export processing zone
ERM-2	Exchange Rate Mechanism-2 (of the EU)
ESA	European System of Accounts
EU	European Union
FDI	foreign direct investment
f.o.b.	free on board
FOMC	Federal Open Market Committee
G-7	Group of Seven
GDP	gross domestic product
GDR	(former) German Democratic Republic
HICP	Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
HWWA	Hamburgisches Welt-Wirtschafts-Archiv (Hamburg Institute of International Economics)
ICT	information and communications technology
IEA	International Energy Agency
IIF	Institute of International Finance, Inc.
ILO	International Labour Office
IMF	International Monetary Fund
kg	kilogram
LFS	labour force survey
MCI	monetary conditions index
MDG	Millennium Development Goal

NBER	National Bureau of Economic Research
NMP	net material product
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
OPT	outward processing trade
PIT	personal income tax
PMI	Purchasing Managers' Index
PPI	producer price index
PPP	purchasing power parity
R&D	research and development
RPIX	retail price index excluding mortgage interest payments
SARS	severe acute respiratory syndrome
SES	Single Economic Space
SETE	south-east European transition economies
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SGP	Stability and Growth Pact
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
SMEs	small and medium enterprises
SNA	System of National Accounts
SSC	social security contributions
TACIS	Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States (of the EU)
ULC	unit labour costs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USSR	(former) Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
VAT	value added tax
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

PREFACE

The present *Survey* is the fifty-seventh in a series of annual reports prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to serve the needs of the Commission and of the United Nations in reporting on and analysing world economic conditions.

Until 1997 the *Economic Survey of Europe* was issued once a year as was the *Economic Bulletin for Europe*, the secretariat's second publication which focused on trade and payments issues. At its 52nd Session, in April 1997, the Commission decided to replace these two publications with an annual *Survey* of several issues. In 1998 and 1999 there were three issues each year. There are now two issues a year published in April and November.

The Survey is published on the sole responsibility of the Executive Secretary of ECE and the views expressed in it should not be attributed to the Commission or to its participating governments.

The analysis in this issue is based on data and information available to the secretariat in early February 2004.