

Statistics

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Statistics consist of numerical information that describes a phenomenon or an activity. Using statistical information, you can gain insight into society and how it is managed. Statistical data are important, both as a component in publications and as the basis for studies and research. Statistics describing, for example, population, education, occupation, salaries, prices, interest rates, exports, imports, production, health and housing reflect a country's social and economic conditions. Today, these can be accessed in both printed and electronic form, and they are usually classified into two groups, national and international statistics, based on the sources of the information.

Finding statistics

National statistics

National statistics means statistical data collected from national sources. This is information that is produced by state authorities with responsibility for statistics. The central statistics agencies of individual countries are important producers. They have the task of producing official statistics and are responsible for coordinating the state's production of statistics, and for making it accessible. Today, most African countries have statistics agencies. Other important producers are central and commercial banks, who report a country's economic statistics. Other producers of national statistics are non-governmental institutions, research institutes and individual researchers' publications in scientific periodicals and other press. In other words, national statistics describe the activities of an individual nation. They are detailed and information is usually available at the regional level. A potential problem with this type of statistics is that it is often presented in a national language, which leads to difficulties for anyone who does not speak this language.

International statistics

International statistics are often available in English, as they are gathered from international sources. These may be, for example, organisations such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund or other bodies within the UN system or other organisations that produce both their own statistics and publish statistics from individual countries' central statistics bodies. International statistics are not as detailed as national statistics, but they fulfil an important function when comparing countries.

There are advantages and disadvantages of both types of statistics. Using only national statistics is seldom enough, in particular where comparisons are needed. The production of national statistics in Africa is in the progress of being organized, and therefore has weaknesses. The political situation in a country can also affect whether statistical information can be found in national sources. Statistics on AIDS were long unavailable from South Africa's central statistics body. This may be because it was – and is – a politically charged subject. Statistical information about AIDS in South Africa was available, however, from international organisations such as the UN bodies WHO and UNAIDS. International statistics can therefore function as a supplement to national statistics.

Statistics in printed and electronic format and on the Internet

National and international statistics are currently produced in both printed and electronic form. Printed publications consist primarily of handbooks of various kinds, such as yearbooks, bank reports, periodicals (journals and the like), official publications and other what are called figure publications from international organisations. Statistics are also included in other publications, and, when looking for such information, it can therefore be useful to search in documents that report not only statistical data. The Nordic Africa Institute library has a large amount of national and international statistics in printed form, which can be searched via the library catalogue [AfricaLit](#). (A list with useful keywords appears at the end of this chapter). Particular mention should be made of the library's large collection of official publications from African countries containing various types of national statistics. This material is described in more detail in the chapter [Official publications](#). Various forms of printed publications containing statistical information can be found mainly in large libraries and in special libraries, such as the [Statistics Sweden Library](#). Statistics Sweden's collection consists of figure publications from most countries in the world, and from around 50 international organisations. For the African countries, there are primarily yearbooks, company and population censuses.

The growth of information technology has given us statistics in electronic form, which in turn offers many advantages, not least ease of access. More and more information is now available in databases and via the Internet. The development has also affected the production of statistics, and has contributed to large amounts of data now can be transferred, stored and processed quickly. As a user, it is easy to tailor one's own tables, maps and diagrams as statistical data can be processed together. Large libraries in general, and special libraries such as the Statistics Sweden Library in particular, have statistical databases, journal and article databases and reference databases that are useful in the hunt for statistical data.

On the Internet today, both national and international statistics are published in databases or in various formats available for downloading. Via their websites, libraries, research institutes and international organisations offer the opportunity to search for references in databases or library catalogues and link collec-

tions with links to websites and statistical material. Databases on the Internet are, unfortunately, not always accessible to the general public, but larger libraries usually have access through agreements. You can, of course, choose to go directly to the central statistics agencies or similar bodies in individual countries to get national statistics, or directly to the websites of international organisations. Most African countries have national statistics agencies, but not all of them have their own websites as yet. On the website of the Nordic Africa Institute, the library has collected links to national statistics sources, such as statistics agencies and central banks in the link collection [A Guide to Africa on the Internet](#). They can be found under each country under the heading [Links sorted by country or region](#). Links to other sources of statistics on the Internet are available under the heading [Links sorted by subject](#).

[On its website, Statistics Sweden has a link collection](#) that functions as a guide to international statistics on the Internet. The links are organised according to country and subject. There is also a choice of international organisations that are interesting from a statistical point of view. Free text searching using search services on the Internet can work as a complement, as this can give hits for material that had not been considered before. Statistical tables and diagrams are usually presented as PDF, Excel or PowerPoint files. It can therefore be a good idea to limit the search to such documents. Consider using several search engines, as their indexes contain different web pages, and therefore do not produce the same result when searching. The disadvantage of using search services on the Internet is that it can be difficult to formulate a sufficiently specific or good combination of keywords in order to find relevant material. Free text search on the Internet is not a precise tool. A search may produce many hits, and it can be difficult to sift through them. It might seem that there is an abundance of websites with statistics, but often this is the same information, gathered from the same source. All information gathered from the Internet, and in particular statistical information, must be quality controlled.

Quality control

Regardless of whether you use printed or electronic sources, quality control is important. When it comes to control of statistics, you should consider in particular how many intermediaries there are between the source/producer and the publisher of the information. The primary source is the body that gathers, compiles and produces statistical information. The best way is to gather the information direct from the source. A body that only publishes statistical data collected and compiled by someone else is a secondary source. It is always a good idea to know how many intermediaries there are, and the principle is: The fewer the intermediaries, the better. Also, in conjunction with a table, there should also be definitions of concepts and explanations for them. Alternatively, there should be information about how to find information about tables and concepts used. More about what to consider in terms of quality control in general can be found

in the chapter [Africa information on the Internet](#) and quality control of statistics in particular on the Statistics Sweden website, under [Statistik skolan – The Statistics school. \(In Swedish\)](#).

Statistics can never give a completely correct picture, but are a simplified way of interpreting reality. Official statistical information is estimates, and is often based on representative samples; for this reason sampling errors may occur. However, in some cases they are based on entire population counts. The information from different countries or from different points in time is not always comparable either, due to differing definitions and measuring processes. Statistics can also be misleading for other reasons such as drop-out, response errors, and processing errors. The situation in a country may also be of importance as to whether it is possible to find certain statistical information, as in the example above about AIDS in South Africa. The statistics about AIDS in South Africa that can be found in international organisations consist of administrative information gathered from clinics. This may in many cases be the most certain information, as it is difficult to gather this type of statistical data via surveys. You should therefore be aware that the statistics only show that part of a country's population that is seeking care. The part of the population that is suffering from AIDS and does not seek care can only be estimated, on the other hand.

Some sources of statistics

Handbooks

Printed publications that include statistics, such as handbooks, can currently be sought out in various library catalogues via the Internet, among them the [Nordic Africa Institute library catalogue](#), [AfricaLit](#). Handbooks of particular interest when searching for statistics are the yearbooks *Africa South of Sahara* and *The Middle East and North Africa* (Europa Publications). They include country by country summaries with statistics showing social and economic conditions. Other handbooks are presented below in the sections about organisations and the UN system.

One title that should be mentioned, even if it is published at long intervals, is *Africa at a Glance: Facts and Figures 2006/2007*. It is the twelfth edition of a handbook published by the Africa Institute of South Africa (Pretoria) since 1970. It contains basic facts and statistics showing social, economic and political conditions, presented in clear tables. The sources of the figures are the World Bank, various UN bodies, OECD, FAO, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), African Development Bank and other sources, such as the monthly *Africa Research Bulletin*. The handbook is recommended, both for public libraries and for specialised Africa collections.

Africa: A Publication of the Corporate Council on Africa and Business Books International (Business Books International) is a book published annually. It does not contain large amounts of statistics, but is a handbook worth mentioning in the cir-

cumstances. It lists addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and email as well as web addresses (to the extent they exist) of statistics agencies in the African countries.

Africa: A Guide to Reference Material by John McIlwaine (Hans Zell publ.) presents sources of statistics at both national and regional level, and for the African continent as a whole. The sources are not specialised within any area, but are references to general statistics. The reference work *African Studies Companion: A Guide to African Information Sources*, edited by Hans M. Zell, (Hans Zell publ.) also gathers together sources of statistics. This publication is also available online, via the Nordic Africa Institute library among others.

The periodical *EIU Country Reports*, which is published on a monthly or quarterly basis by the Economist Intelligence Unit, presents summaries for each country relating to economics in particular but also of political circumstances, and contains up-to-date statistics. It is available online via the Nordic Africa Institute library. Further information about this periodical is available in the chapter [Periodicals](#). The other publications are described in more detail in the chapter on [Searching for facts](#).

Organisations

International organisations and institutions both produce and publish statistics, and are important sources. On the one hand, the statistics are not as detailed for each individual country as those published at the national level, but on the other hand it fulfils an important function when comparing countries. The organisations also present statistics within their area of specialisation. They publish printed material in the form of annual reports, bulletins, newsletters and similar. This material is often also available on their websites in various electronic formats, such as databases, PDF Word and Excel documents. Often there are special web pages where entries to all statistics have been gathered together. Below follows a review of various organisations that supply statistics relevant to Africa. The presentation that follows is not comprehensive, but is intended to highlight some important sources, both printed and electronic. AFRISTAT, African Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) are entirely focused on Africa. The World Bank also published statistics focusing on Africa. A long list of other organisations, such as OECD and BIS, and bodies within the UN system, such as WHO, FAO, UNESCO, UNAIDS and ILO, are important for statistics within their differing specialist areas. To end the chapter, there is a list of all the organisations in alphabetical order, with web addresses to their websites.

AFRISTAT: Observatoire Économique et Statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne is an international organisation whose goal it is to strengthen the development of social, environmental and economic statistics in the member countries. The organisation supports the national central statistics agencies in their work and works for regional and economic integration, which in turn leads to corre-

spondence and more comparable statistical data. On AFRISTAT's website there are national statistics for 19 countries in western and central Africa.

Electronic resource	Web/Format	Availability
AFRISTAT (In French)	Yes. Website	Free

Source: AFRISTAT, <http://www.afristat.org/>, January 2011.

African Development Bank Group (ADB Group) consists of African Development Bank (ADB), African Development Fund (ADF), and Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF). It is the foremost institution in Africa working with financial development, the goal of which is to reduce poverty and improve the living standards of people by promoting economic and social growth. ADB publishes several publications containing statistical information. *African Development Report* is ADB's yearbook and contains statistics showing economic and social conditions. *Compendium of Statistics on Bank Group Operations* reports on various banking operations in relation to loans and the exchange range of different countries for example. *Selected Statistics on African Countries* contains comparative statistics country by country, and country-specific time series data for all countries on the African continent. *Gender, Poverty and Environmental Indicators on African Countries* is published annually or biennially and provides both comparative statistics between countries and country-specific information about gender, environment, living conditions and poverty in Africa. The publication also follows up the development goals in the UN's Millennium Declaration. *ADB Statistics Pocketbook* summarises various economic and social data about the member countries and the ADB's activities. Most of the information is gathered from the publications mentioned above. All publications and much more can be found on ADB's website. In 2002, a new study by the OECD Development Centre and the African Development Bank, *African Economic Outlook*, was published. It gives a broad overview of the economic conditions on the continent. The goal is to annually review the current situation and short-term development in selected African countries, seen from a global perspective. A further development of the report published annually is the website *AfricanEconomicOutlook.org*. This presents statistics showing the economic, social and political situation in 47 African countries.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
African Development Report	Annually	Yes. PDF
Compendium of Statistics on Bank Group Operations	Annually	Yes. PDF
Selected Statistics on African Countries	Annually	Yes. PDF
Gender, Poverty and Environmental Indicators on African Countries	Bi-annually	Yes. PDF
ADB Statistics Pocketbook	Annually	Yes. PDF
African Economic Outlook	Annually	Yes, partly. PDF

Source: ADB, <http://www.afdb.org/>, January 2011.

Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
AfricanEconomicOutlook.org	Yes.Website	Free

Source: AEO, <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/>, January 2011.

Bank for International Settlements (BIS) is an international organisation that supports monetary and financial cooperation and serves as a bank for central banks and international organisations. On the website [BIS Statistics](#), BIS publishes statistics relating to the international banking system and financial market. The website makes a number of publications available for downloading, among them BIS' quarterly review, which has an appendix with statistical data. There is also [a list of central banks in the world](#) with links to their respective websites, on which statistics often can be found.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
BIS quarterly review	Quarterly	Yes.PDF

Source: BIS, <http://www.bis.org/>, January 2011.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) collects statistics about economic and social development. The statistics come from the member countries' central statistics agencies. The Organisation's website has lots of statistical information that can be downloaded, in particular from the web page [Statistics from A-Z](#). On the web page [The OECD and Africa](#) you can find more specific information about Africa (follow the link 'A-Z' from the website's front page and select 'Africa' or use the search function). Statistics about the debt situation in Africa is presented here, with links on to other sources. A particular one of these is the website [AfricanEconomicOutlook.org](#), which is a further development of the annual report with the same name, and the database *International Development Statistics Database (IDS)*. The latter covers bilateral and multilateral aid to developing countries.

SourceOECD is the OECD's online library, in which you can find e-books, e-periodicals and interactive statistics databases. Examples of such databases are *OECD.Stat*, which contains the OECD's complete statistics, and *OECD.Stat Extracts*, which contains a selection of statistical information. The publications *African Economic Outlook (AEO)* and *Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Aid Recipients* can both be downloaded in their entirety from *SourceOECD*. *AEO* is a study focusing only on Africa, in which the countries are compared country by country. Since 2002, OECD has been publishing this report in collaboration with African Development Bank. It illuminates African economic conditions from a global perspective and includes an appendix with statistics. In the other publication, you can find information about aid and help to developing countries.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
<i>Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Aid Recipients</i>	Irregular	Yes. PDF. Licence
<i>African Economic Outlook</i>	Annually	Yes. PDF. Licence
Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
AfricanEconomicOutlook.org	Yes. Website	Free
International Development Statistics Database (IDS)	Yes. Database	Free
SourceOECD	Yes. Databases	Licence
OECD.Stat	Yes. Database	Licence
OECD.Stat.Extracts	Yes. Database	Free

Source: BIS, <http://www.bis.org/>, January 2011.

OECD and BIS, together with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (which is presented later on in the chapter) have compiled their individual statistical information about foreign debts of developing countries on ***Joint External Debt Hub*** (JEDH), which replaces the earlier *Joint BIS-IMF-OECD-World Bank Statistics on External Debt*. The JEHD database is freely available and makes it easy to compare countries.

Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
Joint External Debt Hub (JEDH)	Yes. Database	Free

Source: Joint BIS-IMF-OECD-World Bank External Debt Hub, <http://www.jedh.org/>, January 2011.

The UN system

The UN and its various bodies both produce and publish statistics. ***United Nations Statistics Division*** (UNSD) lists on its website a number of statistical publications divided up according to subject, such as demography, energy, environment, gender, housing and building issues, industry, economics, social issues and trade. It also lists publications that are available electronically. Since 1949, the UNSD has published the *United Nations Statistical Yearbook*, which provides a long list of international statistics covering social and economic conditions, and also activities at national, regional and global level. It covers periods of one to ten years, depending on the availability of statistical data. The information is collected from both national and international sources, and compiled by UNSD. Other frequently requested publications are *World Statistics Pocketbook* and *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (MBS)*. The first publication, which is available via the UNSD website, gathers together comprehensive statistics country by country. All the African countries are represented. The second publication, MBS, reports current statistics covering social and economic conditions. It contains more than 50 tables of data, reported by month, quarter and/or year, across a number of various subjects covering important economic trends and developments. *MBS Online* is also part of this publication, and is an online database based on the printed version, and which is generally updated every month when a new printed edition is published.

The United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) has launched a new Internet-based service, [UNSD Statistical Databases](#), where they have gathered together the UN's various statistical databases in order to facilitate matters for users. Here, around 15 databases are available, among them the above-mentioned *MBS Online*, and also *The Millennium Indicators Database*, which includes 48 tables showing to what extent the Millennium Goals are being achieved, and also *The Social Indicators*, which gives access to statistics about housing, health, education, access to water and sanitation, etc. Further databases compiled by the UN system on population issues in particular can be found here.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
United Nations Statistical Yearbook	Annually	Yes. PDF
World Statistics Pocketbook	Annually	Yes. PDF
Monthly Bulletin of Statistics	Monthly	No
Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
MBS Online	Yes. Database	Free
The Millennium Indicators Database	Yes. Database	Free
The Social Indicators	Yes. Database	Free

Source: <http://unstats.un.org/>, January 2011.

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) works with regional integration and promoting international cooperation for Africa's economic and social development. UNECA compiles and publishes a number of different publications that contain statistics, including a number of series, among them the *Economic Report on Africa*, published annually. It is available on UNECA's website. Another important publication is the yearbook *African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB)*, in which statistical data for UNECA's member countries is presented country by country, and also regionally. This publication can also be downloaded from the website. There are also further publications for downloading, dealing with subjects such as demography, population, gender, agriculture and environment, including statistical information.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
Economic Report on Africa	Annually	Yes. PDF
African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB)	Annually	Yes. PDF

Source: UNECA, <http://www.uneca.org/>, January 2011.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) promotes the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy and monitors the areas of trade and development, and closely related areas, such as finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. UNCTAD compiles, validates and processes a wide range of statistical data collected from national and international sources.

On 20 October 2010, in celebration of the World Statistics Day, UNCTAD launched [UNCTADstat](#), its new data dissemination platform. All of UNCTAD's online statistical databases, the *Handbook of Statistics*, the *Commodity Prices and Price Indices*, the *Foreign Direct Investment Statistics*, and the *Global Databank on World Trade in Creative Products* have been integrated into *UNCTADstat*. Through this data dissemination system UNCTAD provides free access to comprehensive statistical time series and indicators essential for the analysis of world trade, investment, international financial flows, and development. The [ICT Analysis Section](#) of UNCTAD works to measure ICT in enterprises and the ICT sector. *The Measuring ICT Website* provides information on the development of ICT statistics and indicators worldwide, with an emphasis on supporting ICT policies and the information economies in developing countries.

Selected *UNCTADstat* data are also disseminated in various publications available in printed format, and some of these are also available as downloads. *The UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics* provides a comprehensive collection of statistical data relevant to the analysis of international trade, investment and development, for individual countries and for economic and trade groupings. The *World Investment Report* focuses on trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide and at the regional and country levels, as well as emerging measures to improve FDI's contribution to development. The *Economic Development in Africa Report* analyses selected aspects of Africa's development problems and major policy issues confronting African countries. *Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures (DGFF)* is a brief synopsis of data and information that offers some explanations for new and emerging economic trends. It is published at longer intervals, but is important from a statistical point of view. Information about further publications and downloadable documents can be found on UNCTAD's website.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics	Annually	Yes. PDF
World Investment Report	Annually	Yes. PDF
Economic Development in Africa Report	Annually	Yes. PDF
Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures	Every four years	Yes. PDF
Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
Commodity Price Statistics On-line	Yes. Database	Free
Foreign Direct Investment Database	Yes. Database	Free
Global Databank on World Trade in Creative Products	Yes. Database	Free
Measuring ICT for Development	Yes. Website	Free
UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics Online	Yes. Database	Free

Source: UNCTAD, <http://www.unctad.org/>, January 2011.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) works to reduce famine and malnutrition, and to improve the standards of foods. The organisation also helps its member countries with sustainable development within the agricultural sector. On the FAO's website under the heading [Statistics](#), a number of online resources have been gathered together. *Agro-MAPS* is a comprehensive database with statistics covering the use of farmland at sub-national level. *AQUASTAT* contains comprehensive statistics about water supply within agriculture, with the focus on developing countries. *FAOSTAT*, the FAO statistical database, is a multilingual database that contains more than one million statistical series from 1961 and onwards, and covers more than 200 countries with statistics on agriculture, food supply, food aid, fishing, forestry, land use and population. *CountrySTAT* is focused on a small number of countries, several of which are African. It contains statistics on food and agriculture. *FAOSTAT-Agriculture* provides statistics about crops, livestock, irrigation, land use, artificial fertilisers, use of pesticides and farming machinery. *FAOSTAT-Fisheries* has statistics about fish production, etc. *FAOSTAT-Forestry* has statistics about import and export of timber and paper. In *Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics*, there is statistical data about fishing compiled by the FAO. *Forestry Country Profiles* contains statistics about forestry and similar issues on a country basis. *GLIPHA, the Global Livestock Production and Health Atlas (GLiPHA)* is a user-friendly, interactive electronic atlas that provides information about animal husbandry and health. *PAAT Information System* serves to guide strategic decisions on tsetse and trypanosomiasis control in sub-Saharan Africa, with sustainable agriculture and countryside development as the goal. *TERRASTAT* has information about land resources with statistics and country and regional level.

As regards printed publications, FAO publishes a large number of titles every year containing statistical information, such as yearbooks, all with the title *FAO Yearbook*. *FAO Statistical Yearbook* is one such publication. Further publications available for download can be found on the website.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
FAO Statistical Yearbook	Annually	Yes. PDF/XLS
Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
Agro-MAPS	Yes. Database	Free
AQUASTAT	Yes. Database	Free
CountrySTAT	Yes. Database	Free
FAOSTAT	Yes. Database	Free
FAOSTAT-Agriculture	Yes. Database	Free
FAOSTAT-Fisheries	Yes. Database	Free
FAOSTAT-Forestry	Yes. Database	Free
Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics	Yes. Database	Free
Forestry Country Profiles	Yes. Database	Free
GLIPHA	Yes. Database	Free
PAAT Information System	Yes. Database	Free
TERRASTAT	Yes. Database	Free

Source: FAO, <http://www.fao.org/>, April 2011.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) works out strategies and programmes for promoting human rights, improving working and living conditions and increasing the opportunities for work. ILO issues a long list of publications containing statistics about labour-related issues, among them *Yearbook of Labour Statistics*, which presents statistical data in time series or by country. The organisation also has a comprehensive website, where a lot of statistics can be found. The [Statistics and Databases](#) web page has a number of useful and accessible databases. LABORSTA is a database showing labour statistics, covering variables such as the economic activities of the population (from 1945 onwards), employment, unemployment, salaries and similar. For statistics on child labour, follow the link *Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (IPEC-SIMPOCI)* to the website for [International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour \(IPEC\)](#).

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
<i>Yearbook of Labour Statistics</i>	Annually	No
Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
LABORSTA	Yes.Database	Free
International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)	Yes.Website	Free

Source: ILO, <http://www.ilo.org/>, January 2011.

The World Health Organization (WHO) runs and coordinates international healthcare, and promotes and coordinates research into the prevention of various diseases. Since 1995, WHO has published *The World Health Report*, which deals with the current world health situation and has an appendix with statistical data. It can be downloaded from the WHO website. WHO publications about Africa are primarily collected on the page [Library and Documentation Centre](#). Here you can browse the menu by subject, or search the library's databases. Items worth mentioning are *The African Regional Health Report*, which has an appendix with statistics, and the *Annual Report of the Regional Director*, which also contains some statistical data. The *World Health Statistics Report*, which includes statistics covering the health and healthcare sector, is available via *WHOSIS (WHO Statistical Information System)* on the organisation's website. *WHOSIS* is now part of *Global Health Observatory (GHO) Database*, which is WHO's main portal to statistics on health. This gathers together a broad range of health-related subjects, such as mortality, diseases, risk factors and health costs. Much statistics on the subject can be found on WHO's website under the heading [Data and Statistics](#), organised both according to the name of the database and by subject.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
The World Health Report	Annually	Yes. PDF
The African Regional Health Report	Annually	Yes. PDF
Annual Report of the Regional Director	Annually	Yes. PDF
World Health Statistics Report	Annually	Yes. PDF
Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
WHOSIS	Yes. Database	Free
Global Health Observatory (GHO) Database	Yes. Database	Free

Source: WHO, <http://www.who.int/>, January 2011.

The *United Nations Population Fund* (UNFPA) helps to establish health programmes, concerned with family planning and sexual and reproductive health, and also with questions pertaining to fast rapid population growth. [UNFPA's publications](#) are practically all available as downloads. The publications *UNFPA Annual Report* and *State of World Population*, which contain statistics, are also published in Internet format.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
UNFPA Annual Report	Annually	Yes. PDF
State of World Population	Annually	Yes. PDF
Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
UNFPA Annual Report	Yes. Web page	Free
State of World Population	Yes. Web page	Free

Source: UNFPA, <http://www.unfpa.org/>, January 2011.

The *United Nations Development Programme* (UNDP) assists countries in building up the capacity for sustainable development and carries out much of its work in Africa. It is a global network for human development, which works towards the improvement of living conditions, and which is active in many different areas. UNDP focuses much of its work on the promotion of democracy, supports initiatives for peace and reconciliation and prevention of crises and fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It also supports environmental programmes, as well as working towards building up communications technology in Africa. Since 1990, UNDP has published the *Human Development Report* (HDR) which is a written collaboration with independent researchers and contains numerous statistics. The report is available for download. On the [Statistics of the Human Development Report](#) web page there is also statistical data from the HDR. The organisation collaborates closely with governments all over the world, and gains access to the national statistics of individual countries. UNDP has compiled various development indexes, among the *Human Development Indicators* (HDI), which measure human development in terms other than just income. HDI can be found on the above mentioned web page.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
Human Development Report (HDR)	Annually	Yes. PDF
Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
Human Development Report (HDR)	Yes. Web page	Free
Human Development Indicators (HDI)	Yes. Web page	Free

Source: UNDP, <http://www.undp.org/>, January 2011.

The *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (UNHCR) leads and co-ordinates international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems. Statistical data is collected on the [UNHCR's Statistical Website](#) web page. This contains the *UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database* with information about 150 countries at the national, regional, and global level. The database is continuously updated. Here you can also find the *UNHCR Statistical Yearbook* for download. It includes an appendix with statistical tables. Another important publication is *The State of the World's Refugees*, which gives a detailed and far-reaching analysis of the miserable conditions the world's refugees live under. The publication is irregular, with five editions between 1993 and 2006. This also includes an appendix with statistics, which can be downloaded from the website. Reports and other publications with up-to-date statistics for development and changes in terms of people in flight can be found in the catalogue [Statistics Catalogue](#). It functions as an archive for all statistics reports. They are all available for download. There is also information about the Millennium Goals on this site.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
UNHCR Statistical Yearbook	Annually	Yes. PDF
The State of the World's Refugees 2006	Irregularly	Yes. PDF
Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database	Yes. Database	Free

Source: UNHCR, <http://www.unhcr.org/>, January 2011.

The *World Food Programme* (WFP) has the task of handing out food during famine catastrophes, and to help build up communities through the “food-for-work” project. The *WFP Annual Report*, which includes an appendix with statistics, is published annually. This report, together with other annually published reports that also include statistical information, is available from the WFP's website. Here you can also find the *Hunger Stats* database, with figures and facts about world hunger compiled by the WFP.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
WFP Annual Report	Annually	Yes. PDF
Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
Hunger Stats	Yes. Database	Free

Source: WFP, <http://www.wfp.org/>, January 2011.

The *United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization* (UNESCO) works to facilitate understanding of great changes in the world and to draw up intellectual and ethical guidelines. The website includes the *UNESCDOC Database*, which includes downloadable documents. The search function makes it easy to find relevant publications. During the period 1964–1999, *UNESCO Statistical Yearbook* was published. In 1999, the *UIS (UNESCO Institute for Statistics)* was formed, and its website publishes comprehensive statistics about education, literacy, culture and communication (book publishing, film, museums, libraries and media), as well as technology and science (national data on staff resources and expenditure on research and experimental development, R&D).

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
<i>UNESCO Statistical Yearbook</i>	1964–1999	No
Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
UNESCDOC Database	Yes. Database	Free
UIS (The UNESCO Institute for Statistics)	Yes. Website	Free

Source: UNESCO, <http://www.unesco.org/>, January 2011.

The *United Nations Children's Fund* (UNICEF) defends, promotes and protects children's rights. Every year, UNICEF issues a large number of publications, among them *The State of the World's Children*, a report on the well-being of children. *Progress for Children*, which reports on advances made in the fulfilment of the Millennium Goals, and the *UNICEF Annual Report*. All three publications include statistics. If you are looking specifically for publications that contain statistical data, you can choose to sort them by subject on the web page for publications. The publications can be downloaded. The organisation has a comprehensive website; in order to find statistics, look under the headings [Information by country](#) or [What we do](#). The statistics are presented in conjunction with each country or subject. Further links lead to the *Childinfo.org* website, which contains statistics from UNICEF, including information from the above-mentioned publications.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
UNICEF Annual Report	Annually	Yes. PDF
The State of the World's Children	Annually	Yes. PDF
Progress for Children	1–2 times/year	Yes. PDF
Electronic resources	Web/Format	Availability
Childinfo.org	Yes. Website	Free

Source: UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/>, January 2011.

The *Joint United National Programme on HIV/AIDS* works to prevent the spread of AIDS, provide care and support to those infected or affected by the

disease, and to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and communities against HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS consists of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDCP, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. The annually published *AIDS Epidemic Update* presents the latest estimations of the AIDS epidemic and reviews new research and trends. There are also fact sheets with statistical information about HIV/AIDS in various continents compiled in collaboration with the WHO. UNAIDS publishes a new *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic* every other year. The report includes available national information and gives overviews and comments on the epidemic. The *UNAIDS Annual Report* includes an appendix with statistics. Reports, fact sheets and other publications, as well as statistical information about HIV/AIDS, are available on the website, in particular under the country profiles.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
UNAIDS Annual Report	Annually	Yes. PDF
AIDS Epidemic Update	Annually	Yes. PDF
Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic	Bi-annually	Yes. PDF

Source: UNAIDS, <http://www.unaids.org/>, January 2011.

The **World Bank** publishes *World Development Indicators (WDI)*, which are the bank group's primary summary of development data. They also publish *Africa Development Indicators (ADI)*, which is a detailed collection of development data from large parts of Africa. *Global Development Finance (GDF)* is the World Bank's annual study of trends and future prospects for the flow of finance in developing countries. It also contains statistics showing country debts and summarises data for regions and income groups. All three publications are available via the new [The World Bank Data](#) website. Here, the World Bank offers free access to statistics on subjects such as health, economy and human development. The website is continuously updated and statistical data can be downloaded from databases, reports and pre-formatted tables. Here you can also find the *Country at-a-Glance* tables, which provide a quick summary of a country. However, for comparisons between countries, WDI is recommended. In the so-called [Data Catalog](#) you can find further sources. As regards publications, the range is great and can be found on the website listed according to country, region, subject, and so on. One publication worth mentioning is *The World Bank Annual Report*, which can be downloaded and which contains statistics.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
Africa Development Indicators (ADI)	Annually	Yes. PDF
World Development Indicators (WDI)	Annually	Yes. PDF
Global Development Finance (GDF)	Annually	Yes. PDF
The World Bank Annual Report	Annually	Yes. PDF

Electronic Resources	Webb/Format	Availability
The World Bank Data	Yes. Website	Free
Africa Development Indicators Database (ADI)	Yes. Database	Free
World Development Indicators (WDI)	Yes. Database	Free
Global Development Finance (GDF)	Yes. Database	Free
Country at-a-Glance Tables	Yes. Web page	Free

Source: The World Bank, <http://www.worldbank.org/>, January 2011.

The *International Monetary Fund* (IMF) publishes statistics about IMF loans, exchange rates and economic conditions primarily in the member countries, and also issues a number of publications. The yearbook *Government Finance Statistics Yearbook* gives detailed information about economic and financial statistics for members of the IMF. It is available for download, but also in database form. IMF regularly publishes the *World Economic Outlook (WEO)*, which focuses on economic development at global, regional and national level. It can be downloaded from the website. The *World Economic Outlook (WEO) Database* includes a selection of macroeconomic data series, found in the appendix of the printed publication. This database can be used to find information about national accounting, inflation, unemployment figures, balance of payments, trade, etc. It is updated twice yearly. On the [Data and Statistics](#) web page there are further databases within the subject area, several of which are freely available. One of them is *IMF Financial Data by Country*, which summarises the member countries' relations with the IMF. The periodical *International Financial Statistics (IFS)* has been published monthly since 1948. There is also a yearbook that includes statistical information about financial issues, both at the international and the national level, such as exchange rates, the banking system, money, interest rates, prices, production, and so on. *IFS* is also available as a database, but this is only accessible by agreement. The statistics in *IFS* and *WEO* may differ, primarily because of different factors such as time, focus, method and collection technique.

Printed publications	Published	Web/Format
<i>International Financial Statistics</i>	Monthly	Yes. Licence
<i>International Financial Statistics Yearbook</i>	Annually	Yes. Licence
Government Finance Statistics Yearbook	Annually	Yes. PDF
World Economic Outlook (WEO) Report	Several issues/year	Yes. PDF

Electronic Resources	Webb/Format	Availability
<i>Government Finance Statistics (GFS)</i>	Yes. Database	Licence
<i>International Financial Statistics Online</i>	Yes. Database	Licence
World Economic Outlook (WEO) Database	Yes. Database	Free
IMF Financial Data by Country	Yes. Database	Free

Source: IMF, <http://www.imf.org/>, January 2011.

The *United Nations Environment Programme* (UNEP) coordinates the UN's environmental activities, supports developing countries in introducing environ-

mentally friendly policies and encourages sustainable development. UNEP's Global Resource Information Database (GRID) together with the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) supports the development of *African Population Database Documentation*. This is a comprehensive database of administrative units with associated population figures in Africa, with a summarised population estimate for the years 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000.

Electronic Resources	Webb/Format	Availability
African Population Database Documentation	Yes. Database	Free

Source: UNEP/GRID, <http://na.unep.net/>, January 2011.

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Internet resources

- Nordic Africa Institute – <http://www.nai.uu.se/>
AfricaLit (Nordic Africa Institute's library catalogue) – <http://africalit.nai.uu.se/F/>
A Guide to Africa on the Internet – <http://www.nai.uu.se/library/resources/guidetoafrica/>
Statistics Sweden – <http://www.scb.se/>

ADB – www.afdb.org/
AFRISTAT – www.afristat.org/
BIS – www.bis.org/
FAO – www.fao.org/
ILO – www.ilo.org/
IMF – www.imf.org/
OECD – www.oecd.org/
UN – unstats.un.org/unsd/
UNAIDS – www.unaids.org/
UNCTAD – www.unctad.org/
UNDP – www.undp.org/
UNECA – www.uneca.org/
UNEP/GRID – <http://na.unep.net/>
UNESCO – www.unesco.org/
UNFPA – www.unpfa.org/
UNHCR – www.unhcr.org/
UNICEF – www.unicef.org/
World Bank – www.worldbank.org/
WHO – www.who.org/
WPF – www.wpf.org/

Search terms in AfricaLit

The indexing terms used in *AfricaLit* – Nordic Africa Institute library catalogue – consists of subject words gathered from *Macrothesaurus for Information Processing in the Field of Economic and Social Development* (Paris/New York: OECD/UN, 1998, 5. ed.) and from *UNBIS Thesaurus* (United Nations Bibliographical Information System). The latter is available on the Internet.

For searching statistics, the following subject words are useful: Statistical analysis; Statistical data; Statistical services; Statistical tables; Agricultural statistics; Demographic statistics; Economic statistics; Educational statistics; Employment statistics; Energy statistics; Environmental statistics; Financial statistics; Fishery statistics; Food statistics; Forestry statistics; Health statistics; Housing statistics; Industrial statistics; Labour statistics; Migration statistics; Production statistics; Social statistics; Statistics; Trade statistics; Transport statistics; Vital statistics; Household surveys; Housing censuses; Population censuses; Indicators; Demographic indicators; Development indicators; Economic indicators; Educational indicators; Health indicators; Social indicators; Official documents and others.