



The background is a light blue gradient. On the right side, there is a large, semi-transparent globe showing the Americas. Overlaid on the globe and the background are several elements: a horizontal line of binary code (0s and 1s) in the upper left; a vertical line of binary code on the right side; a network diagram with nodes and connecting lines in the upper left; a list of categories (ECONOMY, BUSINESS/FINANCE, WORLD NEWS) in the upper right; a small table with text in the middle right; and three line graphs of varying sizes in the lower left and middle.

International Historical Statistics

ISBN 978-1-349-67190-8 ISBN 978-1-137-30568-8 (eBook)
DOI 10.1057/9781137305688

USER GUIDE

WHAT IS THE *INTERNATIONAL HISTORICAL STATISTICS*?

The *International Historical Statistics (IHS)* series is a unique collection of statistics covering a wide range of socio-economic topics. It is a collection of data sets taken from hundreds of disparate primary sources, including both official national and international abstracts – back to 1750. The new online edition provides updated statistics to 2010 – covering 260 years.

The collection is a truly interdisciplinary resource; it will be of interest to academics, researchers and students in sociology, politics, history, economics, business, environment, international relations, geography and statistical studies and related professional services alike.

International Historical Statistics has enjoyed a long and prestigious life as a print product, first published in 1983 under the editorial leadership of Dr Brian Mitchell; it has been updated several times in print, most recently in 2005. In recent years we have had many enquiries from librarians about an online version; we decided it was time for a new edition and started work on the best way to make these vast data sets available digitally.

GETTING STARTED

Before you start using the data here is a note from the original editor Dr Brian Mitchell on the pitfalls for the unwary user of statistics...

Historical Statistics are now recognised, as never before, as a major raw material of much economic history, especially of that concerned with economic growth and development. In response to this, national collections of historical statistics began to make their appearance from the late 1940s onwards. Towards the end of the 1960s, it seemed that the time was ripe for gathering together the main statistical series for all major countries of the world, and a beginning was made with those in Europe, for which there was more material available than for most others. This was followed by the first edition of the *International Historical Statistics* series. Revised and updated editions were published in 1993, 1998 and 2005. The objective of these books has been to provide researchers and students alike with a wide range of statistical data without the difficulty of identifying sources, of obtaining access to them, and the often considerable labour of extracting the figures from many different places and, one hopes, ensuring that sometimes variously defined figures are transformed until they form a comparable series.

In all these continent-wide compilations, the sources relied on have been, for the most part, official national and international abstracts, rather than detailed publications.

How to use the data sets?

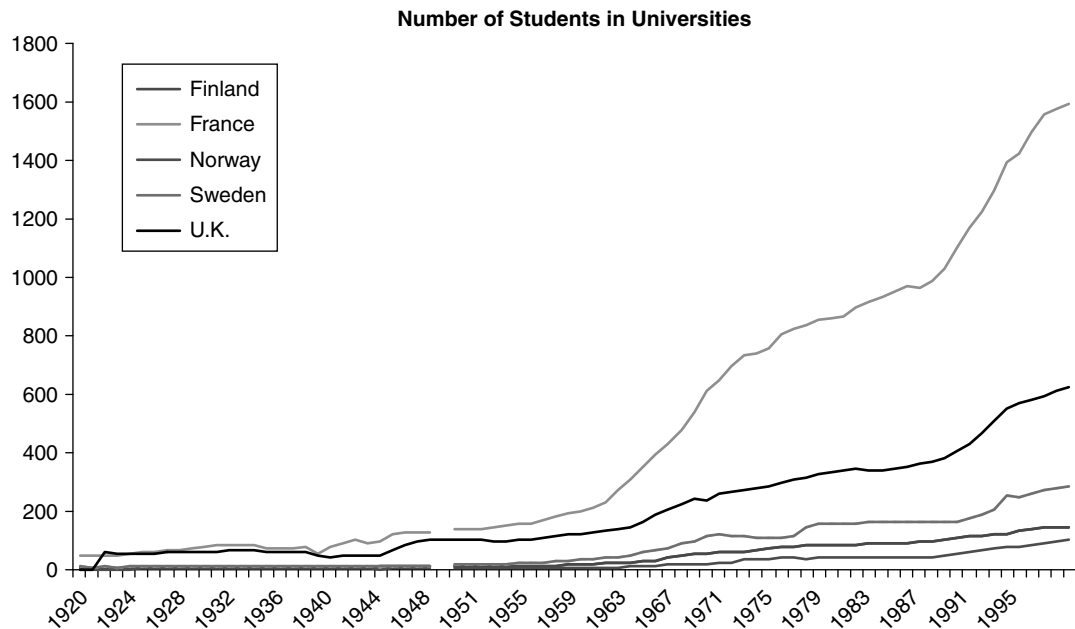
The online version follows the same format and running order as the original print editions, the three volumes are set as follows: Africa, Asia, Oceania; The Americas and finally Europe.

It is possible to **browse** the entire *International Historical Statistics* collection via the expandable chapter links; this allows you to find the specific data you require on different regions without leaving the product page. For example you can browse for data across the geographical regions by using the expanding chapter so that you can find the specific table you require. Alternatively you can **search** for key terms that you are interested in, such as 'student numbers' and this will return a list of tables across the entire collection which includes this phrase. It is also possible to enter the name of a country, such as Eritrea and this will return a list of tables in which this country is mentioned.

We have made each table available to **download** as an ePDF and Excel spread sheet.

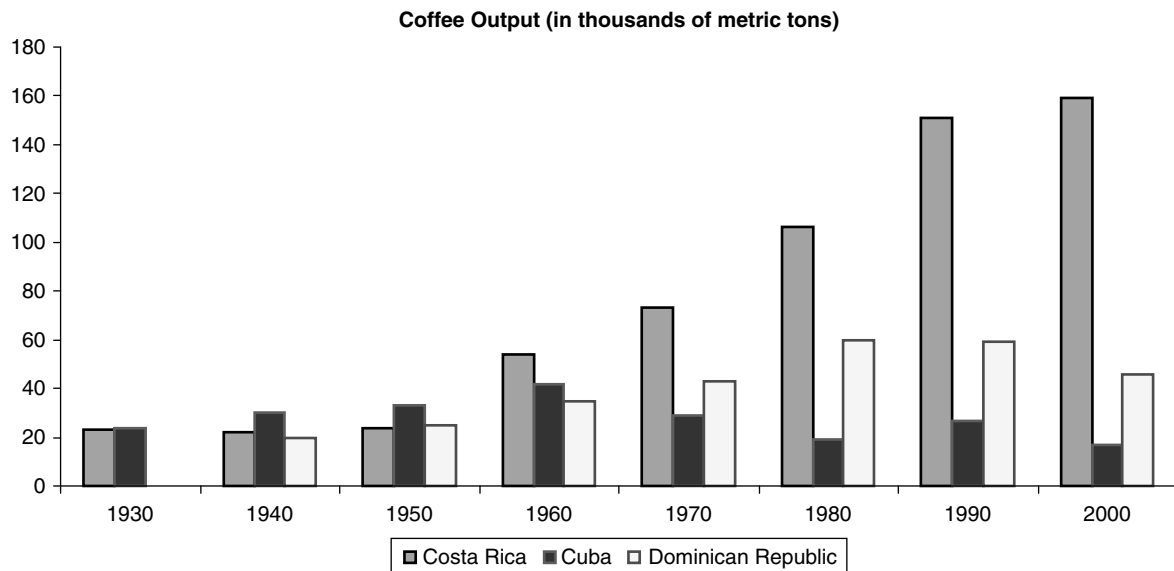
Using the data has been made easy as every table is available to download in Excel. Excel is the most commonly used format for tables and is compatible with a wide range of econometric tools used by researchers and students alike. Excel also allows the user to edit the tables and create and present bespoke data sets and charts specific to your own research needs, taken from the vast amount of data available in the *International Historical Statistics* collection. Users must take care when editing these tables as once they have been altered Palgrave Macmillan can no longer guarantee their accuracy. It is also wise to pay close attention to the footnotes and source notes when editing as the accuracy of these could be affected by editing.

Below are some examples of the types of charts we made using the *International Historical Statistics*, together with some context, to show how easy it is to download and produce the data.



An illustration of how the number of students in Universities in selected European countries since the 1920s. Demonstrates that France saw a dramatic growth in the number of students attending universities, Higher Education was provided free of charge by the state, in 1968 new reforms* divided some old institutions into several new ones, it is possible that this restructuring meant an explosion in the number of HE institutions.

* *The Statesman's Yearbook; France, Social Institutions, Education*



An illustration of how Cuba's exporting dropped off in 1960, when the US trade embargo* began, allowing Costa Rica to flourish. Perhaps this together with the growth of coffee shops in the 70s and 80s would explain the sharp rise in coffee output.

* *The Statesman's Yearbook; Cuba, Key Historical Events*

There have been many people involved in the creation of the *International Historical Statistics* online edition, the publishing service team at MPS who worked tirelessly to convert the 3,500 files from the last edition into the 490 consolidated tables we have today. The Palgrave Digital team who guided the project through the development work. But special thanks must go to the editorial team responsible for the updating and checking of all the tables, their painstaking work to source reliable statistics and ensure that the footnotes were correct was greatly appreciated. Xiao Xiao Liu spent months researching and collecting statistics to be included in the new edition. Daniel Smith was responsible for checking every footnote, creating new footnotes and checking every table.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AFRICA, ASIA AND OCEANIA VOLUME

Historical statistics are now recognised, as never before, as a major raw material of much economic history, especially of that concerned with economic growth and development. In response to this, national collections of historical statistics began to make their appearance from the late 1940s onwards. Towards the end of the 1960s, it seemed that the time was ripe for gathering together the main statistical series for all major countries of the world, and a beginning was made with those of Europe, for which there was more material available than for most others.¹ This was followed by the first print edition of the *International Historical Statistics*², which did not include Oceania, and *International Historical Statistics: The Americas and Australasia*.³ Revised and updated editions were published in 1993, 1998 and 2005. The objective of these books has been to provide economists and historians with a wide range of statistical data without the difficulty of identifying sources, of obtaining access to them, and the often considerable labour of extracting the figures from many different places and, one hopes, ensuring that sometimes variously defined figures are transformed until they form part of comparable series.

In all these continent-wide compilations, the sources relied on have been, for the most part, official national and international abstracts of statistics, rather than detailed publications. As a result, there are more breaks in continuity than are strictly necessary, since compilers of abstracts are continually trying to improve coverage and presentation; and whilst older, long-running series may often still be put together from detailed sources, the process is time-consuming and sometimes requires access to publications which are not readily available outside their country of origin. However, I am assured by many who have used the earlier editions that these breaks are not often of as much importance as they seem to be to the compiler.

Even more irritating, to the compiler at any rate, are the gaps which sometimes appear in series, especially when he knows that they are not the result of a failure on the part of officials to collect and publish the data, but of his own failure to find them. However, there are sharply diminishing returns to search effort after a time, and it has always seemed to me to be best to publish the material that has been collected when it probably comes to something like 99 per cent of all of that which is, in principle, available.

Whilst for the countries of Europe—and even some in the Americas—there is a variety of statistical material going back into the eighteenth century, if not earlier, it is only for India, Indonesia, Japan and Australia in the continents with which this volume is concerned that there is anything of much use before the middle of the nineteenth century.⁴ On the other hand, the number of countries for which statistics had been published by the 1960s or 1970s had become very much larger in Asia and, especially, Africa, than in other continents. Some of these countries are very small, and in order to keep the volume to a manageable size, it has been decided to leave these out of most tables. The main exceptions have been the table showing overall populations, and those tables in sections C and D for which some small country has been a significant world producer or exporter. The basic criterion of smallness for this purpose has been a population around 1970 of less than a million.

Hawaii, which became part of the United States in 1960, has been included in this volume up to that date wherever its statistics justify, but not subsequently.

It should not need to be said that there are pitfalls for the unwary user of statistics, and this is scarcely the place to attempt to summarise those traps of which any introductory textbook will warn. However, there are certain problems which are of particular prominence in historical statistics, to which attention may properly be drawn. It is glaringly obvious that the biggest single problem is lack of availability of the data we should like to have, even, in some cases, for quite recent periods. But there is a comparably important problem in the existence of data which *seem* to relate to the same things in different countries or at different times, but which do not in fact do so. Some sorts of data are available in these cases, but not the precise sort which we want. Basically these problems are ones of definition—in some times and places exports include bullion, in others they do not; pig iron can include or exclude ferro-alloys; bank deposits may include inter-bank deposits, or they may not; and so on. Often there is nothing one can do about this lack of uniformity except indicate its existence and warn against glib comparisons. (One can find little comfort, however, in the fact that failure to observe such warnings is one of the main reasons why statistics have sometimes been held to be worse than ‘damned lies’!) Kindred definitional difficulties are provided by changes in boundaries.

¹ B.R. Mitchell, *European Historical Statistics, 1750–1970* (London, 1975); second edition (extended to 1975), 1980: and third edition (extended to 1988 and renamed *International Historical Statistics: Europe 1750–1988*, Basingstoke & New York, 1992)

² (London, 1982)

³ (London, 1983)

⁴ China should certainly be added to this list for those who read Chinese and have access to collections in China

Two other problems are peculiar to historical statistics. The first is, in a sense, a mechanical one. That is the variable and unknown efficiency of past collectors and compilers of statistics, and of their printers, and the impossibility of ever being able to check on these qualities. This is something one simply has to live with, keeping a vigilant eye on one's own credulity, and endeavouring to estimate margins of error so far as that is possible. Too often, users of historical statistics simply take best estimate figures for their calculations, without working out the effects on their analysis of compounding margins of error.

The second peculiar problem concerns the purposes for which statistics were usually collected up to around the end of the nineteenth century, and, indeed, for which they are often still collected. William Robson rightly said that "the most important methodological development of the [20th] century" was "the introduction of measurement in varying degrees in virtually every one of the social sciences",⁵ and it was only with this development that there came much collection and publication of statistical material for its own sake, as it were. Actually, it began to develop a little before the end of the nineteenth century in some countries; but still, it is generally true to say that most statistics prior to 1900 were by-products of taxation or military preparedness, or at any rate of desire for honesty in administration.

Some early series, therefore, have to be viewed with a measure of scepticism, because there was a premium on avoiding inclusion in the data. Registration of one's true age, if one was a young man liable to military service, and the smuggling of dutiable imports are but two of the most obvious examples. But understatement is not the only error to which statistics have been liable. Population and wealth have sometimes been inflated to impress potential enemies, or for prestige, or to enhance the power of a ruling group. To all these difficulties there is no ready solution. All one can do is be careful, and keep a firm rein on credulity, without going to the other extreme of stultifying total scepticism.

These few generalities are not intended as a critique of the usefulness of statistics in historical studies, but simply as a warning against their careless and casual use in comparisons over time and between different countries. It has been rightly said that "numbers are useful when they attain a level of subtlety and precision beyond that of words".⁶ Let the user of this volume be in no doubt of the need to seek for subtlety and of the difficulties in the way of precision.

Some of the problems peculiar to each topic are mentioned briefly in the introduction to each of the separate sections; but it must be pointed out that these are not intended to be comprehensive critiques of the statistics presented. To do this properly would require at least another volume, and it is the intention here only to draw the user's attention to the main types of difficulty in using the statistics. The problems for each individual country are not generally dealt with, unless they are outstandingly important. However, most of them are readily apparent from a careful use of the notes and footnotes to the tables.

Boundary Changes

AFRICA

Algeria	Colony of France (later incorporated into Metropolitan France) from 1830. Independent from 1962.
Angola	Colony of Portugal from 1491. Independent from 1975. Boundaries not delineated until the 1880s and 1890s. A small exchange of territory with Zaire took place in 1927.
Benin	Colonised by France from 1894 and formally organised as the colony of Dahomey (part of French West Africa) in 1904. Independent from 1960. Name changed from Dahomey in 1972.
Botswana	a British protectorate (Bechuanaland) from 1885. Independent from 1966.
Burkina Faso	A colony of France (part of French West Africa), constituted in 1919 out of part of Upper Senegal and Niger under the name Upper Volta. It was suppressed from 1933 to 1947, being divided between Côte D'Ivoire, Mali and Niger. Independent from 1960. Name changed from Upper Volta in 1984.
Burundi	Part of the German colony of East Africa from 1890 and of the Belgian mandated territory of Ruanda-Urundi from 1919. Independent from 1962.
Cameroon	Colony of Germany from 1884. There was a small boundary adjustment with French Equatorial Africa in 1911, which was reversed in 1919, when the greater part was mandated to France. The part mandated to Britain was administered from Nigeria. Independent from 1961, when the northern part of the British mandated territory was incorporated in Nigeria and the southern in what was officially known from 1972 as the United Republic of Cameroon.

⁵ W.A. Robson (ed.), *Man and the Social Sciences* (London, 1972)

⁶ W. Paul Strassman, *Risk and Technological Innovation* (Ithaca, NY, 1959), p. 5

Cape Verde	Colony of Portugal from 1492. Independent from 1975.
Central African Republic	Colony of France under the name Oubangui-Chari (part of French Equatorial Africa) from 1910, having previously been part of French Congo. Independent from 1960.
Chad	Colony of France (part of French Equatorial Africa) from 1920, having previously been a dependency of the colony of Oubangui-Chari. Independent from 1960.
Comoros	French protectorate from 1886 and a colony administered from Madagascar after 1914. The islands became a French Overseas Territory in 1947. Independent from 1974.
Congo, Republic of the	Colony of France, under the name Moyen Congo (part of French Equatorial Africa) from 1910, having previously been part of French Congo. Independent from 1960.
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	see Zaire.
Côte D'Ivoire	Colonised by France (part of French West Africa) from 1882, and formally organised as a colony in 1904. Enlarged by the addition of part of Upper Volta in 1933, but this was reversed in 1947. Independent from 1960.
Egypt	Nominally under the suzerainty of the Ottoman Empire, but in practice independent until occupied by Britain in 1882. It was formally a British Protectorate from 1914 to 1922 but then recovered its independence, though subject to strong British influence until the early 1950s. In 1958–1961 it was politically united with Syria as the United Arab Republic, but statistics were kept separately. The name continued for a decade or more after the end of the union.
Equatorial Guinea	Colony of Spain from the sixteenth century, known as Spanish Guinea, and consisting of the island of Fernando Po and the continental territory of Rio Muni. Independent from 1969.
Ethiopia	Formerly Abyssinia, it has been independent apart from a period under Italian administration from 1936 to 1941. The former Italian colony of Eritrea was added to it in 1952, but in most respects it was statistically separate.
Eritrea	Italian colony from 1889 and occupied by Britain in 1941–51, it was then incorporated in Ethiopia. Independent from 1993.
Gabon	Colony of France (part of French Equatorial Africa) since 1839. Until its separate establishment in 1910 it was part of French Congo. Independent from 1960.
Ghana	Colony of Britain, in part, from 1821, under the name Gold Coast, with protectorates over Ashanti and Northern Territories added in 1896 and 1901. Part of Togoland (q.v.) mandated to Britain was included from 1922. Independent from 1957.
Guinea	Colony of France (part of French West Africa) from 1892. Independent from 1958.
Guinea-Bissau	Colony of Portugal from the fifteenth century. Independent from 1975.
Kenya	The British East Africa Protectorate from 1895 to its organisation as Kenya colony in 1920. Independent from 1963.
Lesotho	The British protectorate of Basutoland from 1868 to independence as Lesotho in 1966, apart from the period 1871–1884 when it was annexed to Cape of Good Hope.
Liberia	Constituted in 1847 and independent since.
Libya	Part of the Ottoman Empire until ceded to Italy in 1912. Administered by Britain and France from 1942–3 to 1951, when it became independent.
Madagascar	Colony of France from 1896, incorporating the Comoro Islands from 1914 to 1946. Independent from 1958. Sometimes known as the Malagasy Republic.
Malawi	The British Central Africa Protectorate from 1891 to 1907 when it was renamed Nyasaland. From 1954 it was part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. It became independent as Malawi in 1964.
Mali	The former French colony of Soudan (part of French West Africa) formed in 1904 from the territory of Senegambia and part of Niger, and known until 1920 as Upper Senegal and Niger. It was enlarged by the addition of part of Upper Volta in 1933, but this was reversed in 1947. There was a transfer of territory to Mauritania in 1954. Independent from 1960, having briefly been a partner with Senegal in 1959 in the Federation of Mali.
Mauritania	A French protectorate from 1903 and colony from 1921. Its territory was enlarged in 1954. Independent from 1960.
Mauritius	The French colony of Ile de France until occupied by Britain in 1810. Independent from 1968.

Morocco	From 1912 to 1956 the Kingdom of Morocco was divided into a French and a Spanish protectorate, and an international zone (Tangier) from 1923. Full independence was resumed in 1956.
Mozambique	Colony of Portugal from 1505, but with boundaries not delineated until 1891. Additional territory, originally Portuguese but included in German East Africa from the 1880s, was added in 1919. Independent from 1975.
Namibia	A German protectorate (apart from the British-controlled enclave of Walvis Bay) from 1884 to 1915. Subsequently administered, as South-West Africa, by South Africa until independence in 1990.
Niger	A colony of France, separated from Mali (q.v.) in 1922. It was enlarged by the addition of part of Upper Volta in 1933 but this was reversed in 1947. Independent from 1960.
Nigeria	Lagos was colonised by Britain from 1861, and was formally organised as a colony and protectorate in 1887, having been administered previously from Sierra Leone or Gold Coast. Lagos was merged with the Oil Rivers (later renamed Niger Coast) protectorate, which had been established in 1885, to form the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria in 1900, when a Northern Nigeria Protectorate was also formed. The two merged as Nigeria in 1914. The British-mandated part of Cameroon was administered from Nigeria from 1920. On independence in 1960, the northern part of British Cameroons was incorporated in Nigeria whilst the southern part joined the United Republic of Cameroon.
Rwanda	Part of the German colony of East Africa from 1890, and part of the Belgian-mandated territory of Ruanda-Urundi from 1919. Independent from 1962.
São Tomé e Príncipe	A province of Portugal from 1522. Independent from 1975.
Senegal	St. Louis was colonised by France from 1659 and its hinterland from 1854. Independent from 1960, having been a partner with Mali in the Federation of Mali in 1959.
Seychelles	A French colony from 1756 until the islands came under British control as a dependency of Mauritius in 1810. A separate British Crown Colony from 1903 until independence in 1976.
Sierra Leone	Freetown was a British colony from 1787, the hinterland being declared a protectorate in 1896. Independent from 1961.
Somalia	A merger, on independence in 1960, of the former British Somaliland Protectorate, dating from 1884, and the Italian Somaliland Protectorate, dating from 1889.
South Africa	The Union of South Africa was constituted in 1910 from the former British colonies of Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Transvaal, and Orange River Colony (or Orange Free State). Cape colony was founded by the Dutch in 1652 and finally occupied by Britain in 1806. Natal was annexed to the Cape in 1844, but separately administered and formally established as a colony in 1856. Transvaal was colonised by Boers from Cape Colony in 1836–7, its independence was recognised in 1852, and again (following four years of formal annexation) in 1881. It was annexed again in 1900. Orange Free State, colonised by Boers after 1810, was recognised as independent in 1854, but annexed in 1900. The Union became a republic in 1961.
Sudan	Under Egyptian rule to 1881, when it achieved de facto independence. On recovery in 1898–9 an Anglo-Egyptian condominium was established which lasted until independence in 1956.
Swaziland	Under some form of British protectorate from 1881 to independence in 1968.
Tanzania	Founded in 1964 by a merger of Tanganyika and Zanzibar. Tanganyika was part of German East Africa from 1884 to 1918, whereafter it was mandated to Britain, and became independent in 1961. Zanzibar was formally independent until a British protectorate was declared in 1890, but its mainland territories had been handed over to British or German administration a few years previously. Zanzibar's independence was restored in 1963.
Togo	A German protectorate from 1894 to 1914, subsequently divided between Britain and France under League of Nations mandate in 1922. The British part was incorporated in Ghana and the French part became independent in 1960.
Tunisia	Part of the Ottoman Empire, it became a protectorate of France in 1881. Independent from 1956.
Uganda	A British protectorate from 1894. Independent from 1962.

Zaire	The Congo Free State was organised in 1885, annexed as the colony of Belgian Congo in 1908, and became independent (as Congo) in 1960. The name was changed to Zaire in 1967. There were minor boundary changes with Angola in 1927. The name was changed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1997.
Zambia	Constituted as the British colony of Northern Rhodesia in 1924, though organised separately under British South Africa Company administration from 1911. From 1953 to 1963 it was part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Independent from 1964.
Zimbabwe	Formally became the British colony of Southern Rhodesia in 1923, having been administered previously by the British South Africa Company. From 1954 to 1963 it was part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Though reverting to the formal status of a colony in 1964, it achieved de facto independence as Rhodesia a year later. De jure independence involved, inter alia, a change of name to Zimbabwe in 1980.

ASIA

Afghanistan	Under British influence, but never formally part of British India, after 1838. Independent from 1919.
Bahrain	A British protectorate from 1882. Independent from 1971.
Bangladesh	Formerly East Pakistan (q.v.) until independence in 1972.
Bhutan	Himalayan kingdom, independent throughout.
Brunei	A British Protectorate from 1888. Self government was introduced in 1959; independent in 1984.
Cambodia	A French protectorate from 1863 as part of French Indochina. Independent from 1949. Known as the Khmer Republic in the early 1970s and later as Kampuchea.
China	An ancient monarchy, whose boundaries changed over time, modern China may be said to date from the establishment of a republic in 1910. The authority of the National government then formed, seldom, if ever, extended over the whole territory, and, most importantly, Manchuria was separated (as Manchukuo) in 1931 to 1945. In 1949–50 the Communist Party obtained full control of the national territory, apart from Taiwan (q.v.) and Tibet. The latter was fully incorporated in 1959. Hong Kong, which was ceded by China to Britain in 1841, became a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China in 1997.
Cyprus	Ceded by Turkey to Britain in 1878 (but not formally annexed as a colony until 1914). Independent from 1960. Since 1974 the north-eastern part has been occupied by Turkey.
India	The present territory of the Indian Union was established by the partition of India in 1947, with the addition immediately of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and of former Portuguese India in 1961 and French India in 1963. Previously India had comprised British India—i.e. territories administered directly—and the so-called Native States, which were British protectorates. British India was formed when the British government took over the territories and responsibilities of the British East India Company after 1857. Certain princely states were subsequently incorporated in it.
Indonesia	Formerly the Dutch East Indies, the Netherlands government having taken over responsibility from the dissolved Netherland East India Company in 1816. Dutch rule ended with the Japanese occupation in 1941, and was never fully restored after 1945. After a confused period, independence was ceded in 1949, though Dutch New Guinea was not incorporated in Indonesia (as West Irian) until 1963.
Iraq	Part of the Ottoman Empire until 1918. A British-mandated territory from then to 1927, when it became independent.
Iran	Formerly known as Persia. Independent throughout.
Israel	Constituted in 1948 out of part of the former British-mandated territory of Palestine, which had been part of the Ottoman Empire to 1918. Most of the remainder of Palestine, together with part of Syria (the Golan Heights), have been occupied since 1967.
Japan	The first Japanese state dates from the 7th century. Southern Sakhalin (Karafuto) and the Kurile Islands were lost to the USSR in 1945. The Ryuku Islands (Okinawa) were under US administration from 1945 to 1972.

Jordan	The British-mandated territory of Transjordan, part of the Ottoman Empire until 1918, became independent as Jordan in 1946. From 1948 to 1967 the so-called West Bank, part of Palestine, was incorporated. Since 1967 it has been occupied by Israel.
Kazakhstan	Gradually incorporated in the Russian Empire in the 19th century, it later became a Soviet Republic. Independent from 1991.
Korea	A unified kingdom in the Korean peninsula was established in the 10th century. It came under Chinese influence in the 15 th century. It was annexed by Japan in 1910, and known as Chosen. Korea was partitioned after the Second World War. In 1948 the US-supported southern Republic of Korea and the Soviet-backed northern Democratic People's Republic of Korea came into being.
Kuwait	A British protectorate from 1899. Independent from 1961.
Kyrgyzstan	Incorporated in the Russian Empire in 1876, it became a Soviet Republic in 1936. Independent from 1991.
Laos	A protectorate of France from 1893 as part of French Indochina. Independent from 1949.
Lebanon	Formerly part of the Ottoman Empire, it was a French-mandated territory from 1921. Independent from 1941, though its administration was not entirely separated from that of Syria until 1950. It has been much affected by civil war since the early 1970s, parts being occupied by Israel and Syria during that time.
Malaysia	A merger in 1963 of Federation of Malaya, Singapore, Sabah (formerly British North Borneo) and Sarawak, from which Singapore withdrew in 1965. The Federation of Malaya had been set up in 1948 in succession to the Malayan Union of 1946, comprising the former Federated and unfederated Malay States and the British settlements of Malacca and Penang, which had previously been a part of the Straits Settlements (see Singapore). The Federated Malay States had been formed in 1896 by combining those states which had been taken under British protection at various times in the 1880s.
Maldives	Sultanate briefly under Portuguese control in the 16 th century and under Dutch influence between the mid-1600s until 1796. A British protectorate from 1887 to independence in 1965.
Mongolia	The Mongol empire reached its zenith in the 13 th century. The region came under Chinese rule from the 17 th century to 1911 (and from 1919 to 1921) after which it became independent.
Myanmar	Formerly known as Burma (until 1989). It was annexed by Britain between 1826 and 1887 and administered as part of India to 1936–7. After 11 years as a separate colony, it became independent in 1948.
Nepal	A united, independent state from 1768.
Oman	Muscat was a Portuguese colony between 1515 and 1650, after which the Al Said dynasty controlled maritime trade; their influence stretched to Zanzibar until the East African coast came under British control in the 1850s. Muscat and Oman became independent in 1964. The name changed to Oman in 1970.
Pakistan	Created in 1947 by the partition of the British Indian Empire. The physically separate East Pakistan became independent as Bangladesh in 1972.
Philippines	A colony of Spain from 1565, it was ceded to the USA in 1898. Independent from 1946.
Qatar	Part of the Ottoman Empire to 1914. A British protectorate from 1916 to independence in 1971.
Saudi Arabia	Formerly part of the Ottoman Empire, after a confused period it was founded as an independent kingdom in 1927.
Singapore	Colonised by Britain in 1819 and combined with Malacca and Penang as the Straits Settlements in 1826, it was under the Bengal Presidency of India until 1867. Labuan was incorporated from 1907 to 1946. Singapore was a separate colony from 1946 to 1963, part of Malaysia from 1963 to 1965, and independent subsequently.
Sri Lanka	Known as Ceylon to 1972, it was colonised by Portugal in the sixteenth century, occupied by the Dutch in the seventeenth century, and by the British in 1796. It was formally ceded and became a British colony in 1802. Independent from 1948.
Syria	Part of the Ottoman Empire until 1918, it was a French-mandated territory from 1921 to 1941, when independence was declared. The Sanjak of Alexandretta (Hatay) was transferred to Turkey in 1939.

Taiwan	A Dutch colony known as Formosa from the early 1630s, the island came under the rule of the Qing Dynasty in 1683. It was ceded to Japan in 1895 and remained a Japanese colony until 1945, when the Republic of China took control. It has been managed separately and, for all practical purposes, independently, from mainland China since 1950.
Tajikistan	Gradually incorporated in the Russian Empire in the 19th century, it became a Soviet Republic in 1925. Independent from 1991.
Thailand	Known as Siam to 1939. Independent throughout.
Timor-Leste	A Portuguese colony from 1769 until 1975. East Timor was subject to Indonesian and Portuguese intervention. Timor-Leste became an independent nation in 2002.
Turkey	The Ottoman Empire was often loosely referred to as Turkey, but modern Turkey was established after the collapse of that empire in 1918. The Sanjak of Alexandretta (Hatay) was acquired from Syria in 1939.
Turkmenistan	Gradually incorporated in the Russian Empire in the late 19th century, it became a Soviet Republic in 1925. Independent from 1991.
United Arab Emirates	Arab and Persian-influenced maritime trading settlements came under Portuguese and Dutch control in the 16 th century and British influence in the 19th century. Known as the Trucial Coast from the 1850s. Independent as a union of six Trucial States from 1971.
Uzbekistan	Gradually incorporated in the Russian Empire in the 19th century, it became a Soviet Republic in 1925. Independent from 1991.
Vietnam	Cochin-China became a French colony in 1862, and protectorates were declared over Tonkin in 1874 and Annam in 1884, the whole, along with Cambodia and Laos, comprising French Indochina. French sovereignty was gradually ceded between 1945 and 1954, but Vietnam was effectively divided into two separate countries, North and South. This situation lasted until 1975, when the country was forcibly reunited by the North.
Yemen	A merger in 1990 of the long-established state of Yemen (i.e. North Yemen), which had been part of the Ottoman Empire, and South Yemen, which was itself a merger on independence in 1967 of the former British colony of Aden and the Aden Protectorate.

OCEANIA

Australia	The Commonwealth of Australia was established in 1900 from the former British colonies of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. Victoria (in 1851) and Queensland (in 1860) had themselves been created out of the earlier, larger New South Wales. Effectively an independent nation from 1931.
Fiji Islands	A British colony from 1874 to independence in 1970.
Kiribati	Formerly the Gilbert Islands, a British protectorate (later colony) from 1892. Independent from 1979.
Marshall Islands	Under the protectorate of German New Guinea from 1886 until 1914 when Japan took control. Part of the US-administered UN Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from 1947 to independence in 1986.
Micronesia	Captured by Spain in 1886, the Caroline islands were later controlled by Germany and, from 1914, by Japan. Part of the US-administered UN Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from 1947 to independence as the Federated States of Micronesia in 1986.
Nauru	Annexed by Germany in 1888, the island was controlled by Australia from 1914. In 1947 it became an UN trust, administered jointly by Australia, New Zealand and the UK until independence in 1968.
New Zealand	A British colony (from 1840), it gained Dominion status in 1907.
Palau	Captured by Spain in 1886, the islands were later controlled by Germany and, from 1914, by Japan. Part of the US-administered UN Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from 1947. Palauans voted against joining Micronesia in 1978. Independent from 1984.
Papua New Guinea	Established in 1949 by merging the former British (later Australian) Protectorate of Papua with the Australian-mandated former German colony of New Guinea. Independent from 1975.
Samoa	Western Samoa was a German protectorate from 1900 to 1914 and administered from New Zealand from 1920 to independence in 1962. Renamed Samoa in 1997.
Solomon Islands	A British Protectorate from 1893 to independence in 1975.

Tonga	The long-established monarchy became a British protectorate in 1900. Independent from 1970.
Tuvalu	Formerly the Ellice Islands, a British protectorate (later colony) from 1892. Independent from 1979.
Vanuatu	Formerly New Hebrides, an Anglo-French condominium from 1906 until independence in 1980.

Currency Changes

A major source of difficulty in comparing some statistics over time is changes in currency units, especially the issue of new units with old names. To some extent this difficulty has been finessed in this volume by presenting older series in terms of more recent units. However, this has not always been possible, and in some cases it seemed desirable to show the statistics in their proper contemporary form. The following list of major changes that have taken place may be useful:

AFRICA

Algeria	the Algerian dinar, introduced on independence, equalled the new French franc, which had been introduced in January 1960 at the rate of 1 new franc = 100 old francs.
Angola	the kwanza was introduced in December 1999, replacing the readjusted kwanza at a rate of 1 kwanza = 1m readjusted kwanzas. The kwanza was first circulated at independence in 1977, replacing the Angola escudo at par.
Benin	the CFA franc was detached from the French franc in December 1945 on the basis of 100 CFA francs = 170 (old) French francs.
Botswana	as for South Africa. The pula replaced the rand, with which it is at par, in 1976.
Burkina Faso	as for Benin.
Burundi	the Burundi franc, introduced on independence, equalled the Belgian franc.
Cameroon	as for Benin.
Cape Verde	the Cape Verde escudo, introduced in 1914 and equal to the Portuguese escudo. Pegged to the euro since 1999 at 110.65 = 1 euro.
Central African Republic	as for Benin.
Chad	as for Benin.
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	the Congo franc, introduced on independence, replaced the Belgian franc, which it equalled. The zaire was introduced in June 1967 at the rate of 1 = 100 Congo francs. A new zaire was introduced in October 1993 at the rate of 1 new = 3 million old. The zaire was renamed the Congolese franc in 1998.
Congo,	as for Benin.
Côte D'Ivoire	Republic of the: as for Benin.
Djibouti	the Djibouti franc was introduced in 1949 to replace the CFA franc and pegged to the US dollar.
Equatorial Guinea	the CFA franc was introduced in January 1985 to replace the ekpwele at 1 CFA franc = 4 ekpwele.
Eritrea	the nakfa was introduced in November 1997 to replace the Ethiopian birr.
Gabon	as for Benin.
Gambia	the Gambia pound, introduced on independence, equalled sterling. The dalassi was introduced in July 1971 at 5 = £ G. 1.
Ghana	the Ghana pound, introduced on independence, equalled sterling. The cedi was introduced in July 1965 at the rate of 1 cedi = £ G. 0.417. A new cedi followed in February 1967 equal to 1.2 old cedis.
Guinea	the Guinean franc, introduced on independence, equalled the CFA franc, which it replaced. The syli replaced the franc in October 1972 at 1 = 10 francs, and was renamed the Guinean franc in 1986.
Guinea-Bissau	the CFA franc, introduced in May 1997 to replace the peso at 1 CFA franc = 65 pesos.
Kenya	the Kenya shilling replaced the East Africa shilling, at par, in September 1966. The East Africa shilling had been introduced in 1922 at par with sterling, the currency previously used.
Lesotho	as for South Africa. The loti replaced the rand, with which it is at par, in 1980.
Madagascar	the Madagascar franc, introduced on independence, equalled the old French franc.

Malawi	the kwacha, introduced in 1971 at the rate of 2 = 1 Malawi pound, replaced the pound, which had been introduced on independence, when it equalled the Rhodesian pound.
Mali	the Mali franc, introduced in July 1962, equalled the CFA franc, which it replaced (see Benin). The country reverted to the CFA franc in June 1984 at 1 CFA franc = 2 Mali francs.
Mauritania	the ouguiya, introduced in 1973 to replace the CFA franc at 1 ouguiya = 5 CFA francs.
Mauritius	the Mauritius rupee was introduced in 1877 to replace sterling, which had circulated since 1810.
Morocco	the dirham, introduced in October 1959, replaced the Moroccan franc, and was equal to 1.025 French francs.
Mozambique	the name of the currency was changed from the escudo to the metical in 1980.
Namibia	the Namibian dollar was introduced in September 1993, equal to the South African rand.
Niger	as for Benin.
Nigeria	the Nigerian pound, introduced on independence, equalled sterling. The naira was introduced in January 1973 at the rate of 2 = £ N. 1.
Rwanda	the Rwanda franc, introduced on independence, equalled the Belgian franc.
Senegal	as for Benin.
Seychelles	the Seychelles rupee. Introduced in 1914 it circulated alongside, and was equal to, the Mauritian rupee.
Sierra Leone	the Sierra Leone pound, introduced on independence, equalled sterling. The leone was introduced in August 1964 at the rate of 2 = £ SL.
Somalia	the Somali shilling, introduced in 1962 to replace, at par, the East African shilling and the somalo of Italian Somaliland.
South Africa	the South African pound was detached from sterling in 1935. It was replaced by the rand in February 1961 at the rate of 2 = £ SA. 1.
Sudan	the Sudanese pound, introduced on independence, equalled the Egyptian pound.
Swaziland	as for South Africa. The lilangeni replaced the rand, with which it is at par, in 1974.
Tanzania	the Tanzanian shilling replaced the East Africa shilling in August 1966. The East Africa shilling had been introduced in 1922, at par with sterling, which it replaced. German East Africa had used the German currency.
Togo	as for Benin.
Tunisia	the Tunisian dinar, introduced on independence, equalled 1,000 old French francs.
Uganda	the Ugandan shilling replaced the East Africa shilling in August 1966. The East Africa shilling had been introduced in 1922, at par with sterling, which it replaced. A new shilling was introduced in May 1987, worth 100 old shillings.
Zambia	the Zambian pound, introduced on independence, equalled the Rhodesia pound. The kwacha, introduced in January 1968, replaced the pound at the rate of 2 = £ Z. 1.
Zimbabwe	the Rhodesian pound, originally at par with sterling, was replaced by the Rhodesian (later Zimbabwean) dollar in February 1970 at the rate of 2 = £ 1.

ASIA

Bangladesh	the taka, introduced on independence in 1971, equalled the Pakistani rupee, which it replaced.
Indonesia	Cambodia: the name of the currency was changed from the piastre to the riel in 1954. the Dutch guilder was used up to independence, when the rupiah replaced the guilder on a one-for-one basis. A new rupiah was introduced in August 1959 equal to 10 old rupiahs, and another new rupiah was introduced in December 1965, equal to 1,000 of the immediately preceding rupiahs.
Israel	the Israeli pound was replaced by the shekel in 1980 at the rate of £ 1.10 = 1 shekel. A new shekel was introduced in January 1986 worth 1,000 old shekels (shequalim).
Kazakhstan	the tenge was introduced in November 1993 at the rate of 1 tenge = 500 Soviet roubles, but after three days this was changed to 1 tenge = 250 roubles.
Kyrgyzstan	the som was introduced in May 1993 at the rate of 1 som = 200 Soviet roubles.
South Korea	the won was introduced to replace the Japanese yen in 1945. In February 1953 the hwan was introduced, equal to 100 won, and was in turn replaced by the new won in June 1962 at the rate of 1 = 10 hwan.

Malaysia	the Malayan dollar, equal to the Straits dollar when introduced in 1939, was renamed the Malaysian ringgit in 1967.
Singapore	the Malayan dollar, which replaced the Straits dollar at par in 1939, was used until the Singapore dollar was introduced in 1967. The Malaysian ringgit remained exchangeable at par until 1973.
Tajikistan	the Tajik rouble was introduced in May 1995 at the rate of 1 Tajik rouble = 100 Russian roubles. The somoni replaced the Tajik rouble in October 2000 at the rate of 1 somoni = 1,000 Tajik roubles.
Thailand	the tical was renamed the baht in 1928.
Timor-Leste	the US dollar, formally introduced in 2003. The Australian dollar and the Indonesian rupiah, both previously used, no longer serve as legal tender.
Turkmenistan	the manat was introduced in November 1993 at the rate of 1 manat = 500 Soviet roubles. The new manat was introduced in January 2009 at the rate of 1 new manat = 5,000 manats.
Uzbekistan	a coupon currency, initially at par with the Soviet rouble, was introduced in November 1993. This was replaced by the soum in July 1994 at the rate of 1 soum = 1,000 coupons.

OCEANIA

Australia	the Australian dollar replaced the Australian pound in 1966 at the rate of 2 = £ A.1.
Fiji Islands	The Fiji dollar replaced the Fiji pound in 1969 at the rate of 2 = £ F1.
New Zealand	The New Zealand dollar replaced the New Zealand pound in 1967 at the rate of 2 = £ NZ.1.

INTERNATIONAL SOURCES

UN Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific
League of Nations and UN Statistical Yearbook
UN African Statistical Yearbook
The annual Lloyd's Register of Shipping Statistical Tables
Union Internationale des Telecommunications, Yearbook of Public Telecommunications Statistics

NATIONAL SOURCES

The main sources used have been the official publications of various governments. In addition, some non-governmental publications have been used for certain countries. In order to avoid excessive repetition of these in the notes to the tables there follows a list of those used in more than one or two of the tables in this book.

AFRICA

Algeria	<i>Statistique Générale de l'Algérie</i> (1867–1925); <i>Annuaire Statistique de l'Algérie</i> (1926 ongoing)
Angola	<i>Anuario Estatístico</i> (1897–1901 and 1933 ongoing)
Benin	<i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1965 ongoing). See also French Colonies
Burkina Faso	<i>Bulletin Annuaire d'Information Statistique et Economique</i> (1960 ongoing)
Botswana	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1966 ongoing)
British Colonies	Blue books for individual colonies; colonial reports (1846–1940, in Parliamentary Papers to 1921); <i>Tables of Revenue, Population, Commerce, etc. of the UK and its Dependencies</i> (1820–1852, in Parliamentary Papers); <i>Statistical Abstract for the Colonies</i> (1850–1965 with slight variations in title, in Parliamentary Papers to 1947). <i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1962 ongoing)
Burundi	<i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1938–1945, 1947–1957/8); <i>Note Annuelle de Statistique</i> (1964 ongoing)
Cameroon	<i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1962 ongoing)
Central African Republic	<i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1966–76)
Chad	<i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1963 ongoing)
Congo, Republic of the	<i>Annuaire Statistique / Statistical Yearbook</i> (1909 ongoing); <i>Statistical Handbook</i> (1952 ongoing)
Egypt	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1963 ongoing)
Ethiopia	<i>Annuaire Statistique de la France</i> (1870 ongoing. Issues to the 1960s contain a varying amount of data on colonies etc.); <i>Statistiques Coloniales</i> (1837–96, later continued in separate parts for finances, commerce, etc.); <i>Résumé des Statistiques Coloniales</i> (1890–1914); <i>Statistiques des Chemins de Fer des Colonies Françaises jusqu'à l'année 1910</i> ; <i>Annuaire Statistique de l'Afrique Equatoriale Française</i> (1936–55); <i>Annuaire Statistique de l'Afrique Occidentale Française</i> (1933–57); <i>Mémento Statistique de l'Economie Africaine</i> (1969)
French Colonies	<i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1964 ongoing)
Gabon	<i>Digest of Statistics</i> (1953 ongoing); <i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1961–70)
Ghana	<i>Situation Economique</i> (1960); <i>Mémento Chiffre</i> (1982/3 ongoing)
Ivory Coast	

Kenya	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1955 ongoing)
Madagascar	<i>Bulletin Mensuel de Statistique</i> (1955 ongoing)
Malawi	<i>Statistical Handbook of Nyasaland</i> (1949–52); <i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1965 ongoing)
Mali	<i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1960 ongoing)
Mauritania	<i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1968 ongoing)
Mauritius	<i>Mauritius Almanac</i> (1864–88 continued later); <i>Yearbook of Statistics</i> (1946–59); <i>Bian- nual Digest of Statistics</i> (1961 ongoing)
Morocco	<i>Annuaire Economique et Financière</i> (1917); <i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1925 ongoing)
Mozambique	<i>Anuario Estatístico</i> (1928–73); <i>Informação Estatística</i> (1992 ongoing)
Niger	<i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1962 ongoing)
Nigeria	<i>Nigeria Handbook</i> (1924–27); <i>Digest of Statistics</i> (1951 ongoing); <i>Annual Abstract of Statistics</i> (1961 ongoing)
Rhodesia and Nyasaland	<i>Monthly Digest of Statistics</i> (1953–64)
Rwanda	<i>Bulletin de Statistique</i> (1964 ongoing)
Senegal	<i>Bulletin Statistique Trimestriel</i> (1953–58); <i>Situation Economique</i> (1962 ongoing)
Sierra Leone	<i>Annual Statistical Digest</i> (1962 ongoing)
Somalia	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1967 ongoing)
South Africa	<i>Statistical Year Book</i> (1912–13, 1915–16); <i>Official Yearbook of South Africa</i> (1917–60); <i>South African Statistics</i> (1964 ongoing)
Sudan	<i>Foreign Trade and Internal Statistics</i> (1948–61); <i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1970, 1973); <i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1975/6)
Tanzania/Tanganyika	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1961 ongoing)
Togo	<i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1955–6 ongoing)
Tunisia	<i>Statistique Générale de la Tunisie</i> (1904–39); <i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1940 ongoing)
Uganda	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1957 ongoing)
Zaire	<i>Annuaire Statistique de la Belgique</i> (1908–1959); <i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1971 ongoing - under Democratic Republic of Congo since 1997)
Zambia	<i>Economic and Statistical Bulletin</i> (1948–54); <i>Monthly Digest of Statistics</i> (1964 ongoing); <i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1967–71)
Zimbabwe	<i>Official Yearbook</i> (1925–52); <i>Economic and Statistical Bulletin</i> (1933–54); <i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1938, 1945, 1947, and 1985 ongoing); <i>Monthly Digest of Statistics</i> (1964 ongoing); <i>Economic Survey of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe</i> (1967 ongoing)

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Afghanistan	<i>Statistical Pocketbook</i> (1971/2–1974/5); <i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1978/9 ongoing)
Bangladesh	<i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1975 ongoing)
Cambodia	<i>Statistique Générale de l'Indochine</i> (1913–29); <i>Annuaire Statistique</i> (1937, 1957–71)
China	<i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1981 ongoing)
Cyprus	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1955 ongoing)
India	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1840 ongoing)
Indonesia	<i>Jaarcijfers: Kolonien</i> (1887–1922); <i>Statistical Abstract for the Netherlands East Indies</i> (1923–39); <i>Statistik Indonesia</i> (1957 ongoing); <i>Statistical Pocket Book</i> (1957 ongoing)
Iran	<i>A Statistical Reflection of the Islamic Republic of Iran</i> (1983 ongoing)
Iraq	<i>Annual Abstract of Statistics</i> (1927 ongoing, but suspended in recent years)
Israel	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1949–50 ongoing)
Japan	<i>Financial and Economic Annual of Japan</i> ; <i>Japan Economic Yearbook</i> ; <i>Statistical Year- book</i> (1881 ongoing); <i>Bank of Japan, 100 Year Statistics</i> ; <i>Japan Statistical Association, Historical Statistics of Japan</i> (5 vols, 1987)
Jordan	<i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1950 ongoing)
Korea (South)	<i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1954 ongoing)
Lebanon	<i>Bulletin Statistique Trimestriel</i> (1950–62); <i>Bulletin Statistique Mensuel</i> (1963 ongoing, but suspended in recent years)
Malaysia	<i>Malayan Statistics</i> (1932–34, 1937–61); <i>Malayan Year Book</i> (1935–39); <i>Statistical Handbook of West (Peninsular) Malaysia</i> (1967 ongoing); <i>Yearbook of Statistics</i> (1984 ongoing)

Myanmar	<i>Bulletin of Statistics</i> (1951 ongoing); <i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1961 ongoing)
Pakistan	<i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1952 ongoing); <i>25 Years of Pakistan in Statistics: 1947–72</i>
Philippines	<i>Yearbook of Philippine Statistics</i> (1940, 1946); <i>Statistical Handbook</i> (1953 ongoing)
Saudi Arabia	<i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1965 ongoing)
Singapore	<i>Digest of Statistics</i> (1962 ongoing)
Sri Lanka	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1949 ongoing)
Syria	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1948 ongoing)
Taiwan	<i>Statistical Abstract/Yearbook of the Republic of China</i> (1947 ongoing)
Thailand	<i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1916 ongoing); Constance M. Wilson, <i>Thailand: A Handbook of Historical Statistics</i> (Boston, 1983)
Turkey	<i>Istatistik Mudurriyeti Ununiyesi</i> (1928 ongoing)
Vietnam	<i>Annuaire Statistique de l'Indochine</i> (1913–29); <i>Statistical Yearbook</i> (1949–74)

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Australia	Official Yearbook of the Commonwealth of Australia (1908 ongoing); Wray Vamplew (ed.), <i>Australians: Historical Statistics</i> (Broadway, NSW, 1987)
Fiji	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1969 ongoing); <i>Quarterly Statistical Summary</i> (1963–68)
Hawaii	Robert C. Schmitt, <i>Historical Statistics of Hawaii</i> (Honolulu, 1977)
New Zealand	<i>New Zealand Official Yearbook</i> (1892 ongoing); <i>Statistics of New Zealand</i> (1853–1920); G.T. Bloomfield, <i>New Zealand: A Handbook of Historical Statistics</i> (Boston, 1984)

In addition certain gaps have been filled from the British Statistical Abstract for Foreign Countries (1872–1912 in Parliamentary Papers), and from publications of the German Statistical Office, *Die Wirtschaft des Auslandes* 1900–1927 and *Statistisches Handbuch der Weltwirtschaft*.

The word “ongoing” should not be taken to mean that publication has always been continuous.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Note from the original author Brian Mitchell

In compiling a volume of this kind I have, inevitably, contracted a large number of debts for the help that I have been given by a great variety of people. It is impossible to mention every single one of them here, and I hope that those who are not named below will accept this general expression of my gratitude.

My major obligation must be to those librarians and their staff who put up with the persistent demands that I made upon them. Amongst these was the late Mr Finkell of the Marshall Library of Economics at Cambridge. His successors, Mr Donald Ross and Mr Rowland Thomas were equally helpful. I must also pay tribute to the assistance I invariably received from Mrs Peppercorn of the Cambridge Department of Applied Economics Library. Mr Vickery, and his successor Mr Bill Noblett, and their staff in the Official Publications Department of the University Library were very long-suffering in fetching some volumes for me again and again. Others who were particularly helpful were the late Mr Stone and Mrs Hulass at the Woolwich repository of the British Library. In the later stages of preparation of the first edition I appealed for help to the national statistical offices of a number of countries, and I am grateful for the help which some were able to give me. A full list of the organisations which were of assistance is as follows: Direction de la Statistique Générale et des Comptes Economiques, Central African Republic; Ministry of Finance Department of Statistics, Cyprus; Direction Générale de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques, Gabon; Economic Research Department, Bank Markazi, Iran; National Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Korea; the Bank of Korea; Korea Electric Company; Ministry of Communications, Republic of Korea; Department of Statistics, Malaya; Central Statistical Office, Mauritius; National Census and Statistics Office, Philippines; Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka; Central Bureau of Statistics, Syria; National Statistical Office, Thailand; State Institute of Statistics, Turkey; Central Statistical Office, Zimbabwe; Ministry of Labour & Social Services, Industrial Relations Branch, Zimbabwe; Department of Agricultural Development, Zimbabwe; National Railways of Zimbabwe; Posts & Telecommunications Corporation, Zimbabwe.

In order to improve the coverage of Asian statistics, in particular those of Japan, I spent some time at Hitotsubashi and Keio Universities in 1992, and I am extremely grateful for the help I received there. I must make special mention, in this connection, of Professor Yukihiko Kiyokawa of Hitotsubashi University, who made many arrangements on my behalf, and Professor Takao Matsumura of Keio University. I also owe a debt of gratitude to the Great Britain-Sasakawa Foundation, which provided much of the finance for my visit. Other financial assistance was provided by Trinity College, Cambridge.

I have received advice and help in identifying sources, and in other aspects of my work, from several of my colleagues and others scattered around the world. In this connection I would particularly like to thank Professor François Crouzet of the Sorbonne, Dr Penelope Francks, Dr Morteza Ghassimi, Professor S. Sugiyama of Keio University, Mr R. van Weel of the Netherlands Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, Mr & Mrs C.B. Connor, my colleagues at Trinity College, Professor M.H. Pesaran and Dr Anil Seal, and my wife, Ann, who helped in very many ways. I must also thank Mlle Nelly Schmidt, who collected some of the French colonial data for the first edition, although they could not be included at that time.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those at Palgrave Macmillan who have been helpful and understanding in seeing this and the earlier volumes through to publication. Additional thanks are due to Andrew Whitelegg and to Nancy Webster and Pranushka Naidoo for their work on previous editions.

Palgrave Macmillan would also like to thank Xiao Xiao Liu, Dan Smith and Robert McGowan for their painstaking work on this new edition.

The publishers have made every effort to contact copyright-holders, but if they have inadvertently overlooked any, they will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements at the first opportunity.

WEIGHTS & MEASURES: CONVERSION RATIOS

The following is far from being a complete guide to all weights and measures used during the period and in the places covered by this volume. It is simply a list of those conversion ratios used in compiling the tables given here.

1 Imperial ton = 1.016047 metric tons
1 Picul (rice, Malaya) = 0.0606 metric tons
1 Picul (rice, Thailand) = 0.06 metric tons
1 Picul (tea, China) = 0.05 metric tons
1 Cantar = 44.928 kilograms
1 Kan = 3.753 kilograms
1 Kin = 0.6 kilograms
1 Oke (Egypt) = 1.228 kilograms
1 Cho = 0.9974 hectares
1 Arpent = 0.5107 hectares
1 Feddan = 0.420084 hectares
1 Acre = 0.404686 hectares
1 Dunam = 0.25 hectares
1 Mile = 1.609344 kilometres
1 Ardeb = 1.98 hectolitres
1 Koku = 1.8039 hectolitres
1 Bulk barrel (oil) = 1.636547 hectolitres
1 Imperial bushel = 0.363677 hectolitres
1 Imperial gallon = 0.0454596 hectolitres

SYMBOLS

... = not available
- - = less than half the smallest digit used in the table
— = nil

INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAS VOLUME

Historical statistics are now recognized, as never before, as a major raw material of much economic history, especially of that concerned with economic growth and development. In response to this, national collections of historical statistics began to make their appearance from the late 1940s onwards. Towards the end of the 1960s, it seemed that the time was ripe for gathering together the main statistical series for all the major countries of the world, and a beginning was made with those of Europe, for which there was more material available than for most others.¹ This was followed by *International Historical Statistics: Africa and Asia*, and the first three editions of the present work² which then included Australasia (now included with Africa and Asia in a new volume). The objective of these books has been to provide economists and historians with a wide range of statistical data without the difficulty of identifying sources, of obtaining access to them, and the often considerable labour of extracting the figures from many different places and, one hopes, ensuring that they form part of comparable series.

In all these continent-wide compilations, the sources relied on have been, for the most part, official national and international abstracts of statistics, rather than detailed publications. As a result, there are more breaks in continuity than are strictly necessary, since compilers of abstracts are continually trying to improve coverage and presentation; and whilst older, long-running series may often still be put together from detailed sources, the process is time-consuming and sometimes requires access to publications which are not readily available outside their country of origin. However, I am assured by many who have used the earlier volumes that these breaks are not often of as much importance as they seem to the compiler.

Even more irritating, to the compiler at any rate, are the gaps which sometimes appear in series, especially when he knows that they are not the result of a failure on the part of officials to collect and publish the data, but of his own failure to find them. Such gaps could eventually be filled; but there are sharply diminishing returns to search effort when one has collected perhaps 99 per cent of available material, and publication of a not wholly complete collection continues to seem better than a paralysing perfectionism.

All the countries covered in this volume were at one time colonies of European powers. The quality and availability of their statistics seems to bear a fairly close relationship to that of their original governing country, at any rate until fairly recently. The former British colonies published a fairly large amount of data at a comparatively early date in the 19th century, or even earlier; and the few, and small, French colonies in these continents were rather similar in some respects. The former Spanish colonies, on the other hand, tended to produce statistical material about as irregularly as did Spain itself throughout much of the 19th century. Brazil, in contrast, has a better record in this respect than Portugal, and it has some of the earliest series for any South American country where the subject covered is one involving a high degree of government involvement.

It should not need to be said that there are pitfalls for the unwary user of statistics, and this is scarcely the place to attempt to summarize those traps of which any introductory textbook will warn. However, there are certain problems which are of particular prominence in historical statistics, to which attention may properly be drawn. It is glaringly obvious that the biggest single problem is the lack of availability of the data we should like to have, even, in some cases, for quite recent periods. But there is a comparably important problem in the existence of data which *seem* to relate to the same things in different countries or at different times, but which do not in fact do so. Some sorts of data are available in these cases, but not the precise sort which we want. Basically these problems are ones of definition—in some times and places exports include bullion, in others they do not; pig iron can include or exclude ferro-alloys; bank deposits may include inter-bank deposits, or they may not; and so on. Often there is nothing one can do about this lack of uniformity except indicate its existence and warn against glib comparisons. (One can find little comfort, however, in the fact that failure to observe such warnings is one of the main reasons why statistics have sometimes been held to be worse than ‘damned lies’!) Kindred definitional difficulties are provided by changes in boundaries.

Two other problems are peculiar to historical statistics. The first is, in a sense, a mechanical one. That is the variable and unknown efficiency of past collectors and compilers of statistics, and of their printers, and the impossibility of even being able to check on these qualities. This is something one simply has to live with, keeping a vigilant eye on one’s own credulity, and endeavouring to estimate margins of error so far as that is possible. Too often, users of

¹ B. R. Mitchell, *European Historical Statistics, 1750–1970* (London, 1975; second edition (extended to 1975), 1980; and third edition (extended to 1988), 1992)

² London, 1982 and 1984; 1993; 1998

historical statistics simply take best-estimate figures for their calculations, without working out the effects on their analysis of compounding margins of error.

The second peculiar problem concerns the purposes for which statistics were usually collected up to around the end of the 19th century, and, indeed, for which they often are still. William Robson rightly said that 'the most important methodological development of the [20th] century' was 'the introduction of measurement in varying degrees in virtually every one of the social sciences',³ and it was only with this development that there came much collection and publication of statistical material for its own sake, as it were. Actually, it began to develop a little before the end of the 19th century in some countries; but still, it is generally true to say that most statistics prior to 1900 were by-products of taxation or military preparedness, or at any rate of desire for honesty in administration. Some early series, therefore, have to be viewed with a measure of scepticism, because there was a premium on avoiding inclusion in the data. Registration of one's true age, if one was a young man liable to military service, and the smuggling of dutiable imports are but two of the most obvious examples. But understatement is not the only error to which statistics have been liable. Population and wealth have sometimes been inflated to impress potential enemies, or for prestige, or to enhance the power of a ruling group. To all these difficulties there is no ready solution. All one can do is be careful, and keep a firm rein on credulity, without going to the other extreme of a stultifying total scepticism.

These few generalities are not intended as a critique of the usefulness of statistics in historical studies, but simply as a warning against their careless and casual use in comparisons over time and between different countries. It has been rightly said that 'numbers are useful when they attain a level of subtlety and precision beyond that of words'.⁴ Let the user of this volume be in no doubt of the need to seek for subtlety and of the difficulties in the way of precision.

Some of the problems peculiar to each topic are mentioned briefly in the introduction to each of the separate sections; but it must be pointed out that these are not intended to be comprehensive critiques of the statistics presented. To do this properly would require at least another volume, and it is the intention here only to draw the user's attention to the main types of difficulty in using the statistics. The problems for each individual country are not generally dealt with, unless they are outstandingly important. However, most of them are readily apparent from a careful use of the notes and footnotes to the tables.

Boundary Changes

Boundary changes of the kind following wars in Europe have not been unknown in both North and South America, though the extension of the frontier of settlement has been of greater importance in changing the area of most of the national units covered in this volume. These are less easy to identify with precision, and no attempt to do so is made here, since for most purposes such extensions are best conceived of as economic expansions rather than shifts in the locus of units of statistical record. The list that follows is therefore confined to changes of status or in borders:

NORTH AMERICA

Antigua and Barbuda	part of the British Leeward Islands, a British colony from 1833 to 1958, when they joined the short-lived West Indies Federation. Independent since 1981.
Bahamas	a British Crown colony from 1717. Independent since 1973.
Barbados	part of the British Windward Islands, a British colony between 1833 and 1958, when they joined the short-lived West Indies Federation. Independent since 1966.
Canada	the Dominion of Canada was established in 1867 from the former British colonies of Upper and Lower Canada (i.e. Ontario and Quebec), New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and British Columbia.
Costa Rica	declared independent of Spain in 1821. Part of the Confederation of Central America 1824–38.
Cuba	declared independent of Spain in 1898.
Dominica	part of the British Leeward Islands, a British colony from 1833 to 1940, when the island was transferred to the British Windward Islands. Independent since 1978.
Dominican Republic	declared independent of Spain in 1821, but held by Haiti from 1822 to 1844.
El Salvador	part of the Confederation of Central America to 1838, when it became independent.

³ W. A. Robson (ed.), *Man and the Social Sciences* (London, 1972)

⁴ W. Paul Strassman, *Risk and Technological Innovation* (Ithaca, NY, 1959), p. 5

Grenada	under British control from 1763 and part of the British Windward Islands between 1833 and 1960. Independent since 1974.
Guatemala	declared independent of Spain in 1821. Part of the Confederation of Central America 1823–38.
Haiti	declared independent of France 1804 (having been Spanish to 1697). Occupied by the United States of America 1915–34.
Honduras	part of the Confederation of Central America to 1838, when it became independent.
Jamaica	a Spanish colony occupied by Britain in 1655 and formally ceded in 1670. Independent from 1962.
Mexico	declared independent of Spain in 1810 and acknowledged so in 1821. Texas became independent of it de facto in 1836, and, along with the northern provinces which now form Arizona, California, New Mexico, and parts of Colorado, Nevada and Utah, was ceded to the USA in 1845. Another small area, the Gadsden Purchase, was transferred in 1853.
Nicaragua	part of the Confederation of Central America to 1838, when it became independent.
Panama	a province of Colombia to 1903, when it became independent.
Puerto Rico	acquired by the United States from Spain in 1899.
St Kitts and Nevis	part of the British Leeward Islands, a British colony from 1833 to 1958, when they joined the short-lived West Indies Federation. Independent since 1983.
St Lucia	part of the British Leeward Islands, a British colony from 1833 to 1958, when they joined the short-lived West Indies Federation. Independent since 1979.
St Vincent and the Grenadines	part of the British Leeward Islands, a British colony from 1833 to 1958, when they joined the short-lived West Indies Federation. Independent since 1979.
Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad was a Spanish colony until ceded to Britain in 1802. Tobago was joined to it administratively in 1899. Independent since 1962.
United States	declared independent from Britain in 1776, and acknowledged in 1783. Enlarged in 1803 by the Louisiana Purchase, in 1819 by Spain's cession of Florida and neighbouring areas, in 1845 by the Mexican cession, and in 1853 by the Gadsden Purchase. Alaska was acquired from Russia in 1867 and Hawaii from its native rulers in 1898. Both became States in 1960.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina	the Spanish Viceroyalty of the River Plate formed an autonomous government in 1810 and became formally independent in 1816. No stable central government existed in the area which later became Argentina until 1862. Adjustments of boundaries with Bolivia, Chile, and Paraguay have taken place subsequently, but they have been more in the nature of initial demarcations in unsettled territory than of transfers of territory, with the exception of the transfer of Misiones from Paraguay in 1876.
Bolivia	part of the Viceroyalty of the River Plate (see Argentina), to 1825, when it became independent. It has since suffered three major losses of territory—its coastal region (essentially the present province of Antofagasta) to Chile in 1884, part of its Amazonian northern region (the present Acre territory) to Brazil in 1903, and a large part of the Gran Chaco to Paraguay in the early 1930s (formally ceded in 1938).
Brazil	a Portuguese colony, declared a separate kingdom under a king of the Portuguese royal house in 1815, and an independent empire in 1822. (It became a republic in 1889.) Boundary changes have been more in the nature of initial delineations than of transfers of territory, though Acre was acquired from Bolivia in 1903, and there were some transfers from Paraguay in 1872.
Chile	declared independent of Spain in 1810, and acknowledged so in 1818. It gained Antofagasta from Bolivia and Tarapaca from Peru in 1883–4 following the War of the Pacific. Africa and Tacna were also taken, the latter being returned in 1929 and the former being confirmed as Chilean.
Colombia	became independent of Spain in 1819 as part of Gran Colombia—the former New Granada, including Ecuador, Venezuela, and present-day Panama. Ecuador and Venezuela became separate in 1830, whereafter Colombia was known as New Granada to 1863. The province of Panama became independent in 1903. Minor boundary adjustments have occurred with Peru and Venezuela.

Ecuador	seceded from Gran Colombia and became independent in 1830. Small parts of its former eastern province were ceded to Brazil in 1904 and to Colombia in 1916, but they were more in the nature of initial boundary delineation than of territorial transfers. A large part of the remainder of the province was ceded to Peru in 1942.
Guyana	the Dutch Colonies of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice were captured by Britain in 1796 and formally ceded in 1814, whereafter they were known as British Guiana until independence in 1966. The designation Guyana is used throughout this book.
Paraguay	part of the Spanish Viceroyalty of the River Plate (see Argentina), which established its independence in 1814. Following the war of 1865–70, some territory north of the Apa River was transferred to Brazil (in 1872) and Misiones and some of the southern Chaco was transferred to Argentina in 1876. A large part of Gran Chaco was acquired from Bolivia in the early 1930s (formally in 1938).
Peru	declared independent of Spain in 1821, and acknowledged in 1824. Lost Tarapaca province and Africa and Tacna to Chile in 1883, though the last was returned in 1929. A large part of Ecuador's eastern province was gained in 1942.
Suriname	alternatively known as Dutch Guiana prior to its independent in 1975.
Uruguay	Part of the Spanish Viceroyalty of the River Plate, it became independent in 1825 after a confused period when Brazil had occupied it.
Venezuela	seceded from Gran Colombia and became independent in 1830.

Currency Changes

A major source of difficulty in comparing some statistics over time is changes in currency units. To some extent this has been finessed in this volume by presenting older series in terms of more recent units. However, this is not always either possible or desirable. The following list of changes may be useful:

NORTH AMERICA

Antigua and Barbuda	the East Caribbean dollar has been the currency since independence.
Bahamas	the Bahamian dollar has been the currency since 1966, pegged to the US dollar at parity.
Barbados	The Barbados dollar replaced the East Caribbean dollar in 1973. It has been pegged to the US dollar at 2 Barbados dollars = 1 US dollar since 1975.
Costa Rica	the colón replaced the peso in 1900 at the official rate of 1 colón = 1 silver peso.
Dominica	the East Caribbean dollar has been the currency since independence.
El Salvador	the colón replaced the peso in 1920 at the official rate of 1 colón = 1 peso. In 2003 the US dollar was introduced as the official currency.
Grenada	the East Caribbean dollar has been the currency since independence.
Guatemala	the quetzal replaced the peso in 1924 at the rate of 1 quetzal = 60 paper pesos.
Honduras	the name 'peso' was changed to 'lempira' in the early 1930s.
Jamaica	the Jamaican dollar replaced sterling in 1969 at the rate of 2 dollars = 1 pound sterling.
Nicaragua	the cordoba replaced the peso in 1912 at the rate of 1 cordoba = 12.5 pesos. In February 1988 a new cordoba was issued equal to 1,000 old cordobas. In 1990 the cordoba oro was introduced as a unit of account, and in March 1991 this replaced the cordoba at the rate of 1 cordoba oro = 5 million cordobas.
St Kitts and Nevis	the East Caribbean dollar has been the currency since independence.
St Lucia	the East Caribbean dollar has been the currency since independence.
St Vincent and the Grenadines	the East Caribbean dollar has been the currency since independence.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina	A new peso worth 100 old pesos was issued in 1970. In 1983 this was replaced by the peso argentino, worth 10,000 of the previous currency. This was replaced in turn in 1985 by the australe, at the rate of 1 australe = 1,000 pesos argentinos. In 1992 the austral was replaced by the peso at the rate of 1 peso = 10,000 australes.
Bolivia	The peso replaced the boliviano in 1963 at the rate of 1 peso = 1,000 bolivianos, but was in turn replaced by the (new) boliviano at the rate of 1 boliviano = 1 million pesos.
Brazil	The name 'milreis' was replaced by 'cruzeiro' in 1942. A new cruzeiro, worth 1,000 old cruzeiros, was issued in 1966. This was replaced by the cruzado in 1986 at the rate of 1 cruzado = 1,000 cruzeiros. In January 1989 a new cruzado, equal to 1,000 old cruzados, was issued and in March 1990 its name was changed to cruzeiro. In August 1993 the cruzeiro real was created, equal to 1,000 cruzeiros and in July 1994 this was replaced by the real at the rate of 1 real = 2,750 cruzeiros reales.
Chile	The escudo replaced the peso in 1959 at the rate of 1 escudo = 1,000 pesos. In 1975 a new peso was issued at the rate of 1 peso = 1,000 escudos.
Paraguay	The guaranie replaced the peso in 1943 at the rate of 1 guaranie = 100 paper or 1.75 gold pesos.
Peru	The inti replaced the sol in 1985 at the rate of 1 inti = 1,000 soles. In July 1991 a new sol was introduced equal to 1 million intis.
Uruguay	A new peso worth 1,000 old pesos was issued in 1975. A further new peso was issued in March 1993 at the rate of 1 new peso = 1,000 of the previous issue.

SOURCES

The main national sources used have been the official publications of the various governments. In order to avoid excessive repetition of these in the notes to the tables, there follows a list of those used in more than a very few of the tables in this book.

- Argentina** *Anuario del Dirección General de estadística* (1892–1914)
Anuario estadístico: comercio exterior (1915–47)
Anuario estadístico de la República Argentina (1946 ongoing)
Anuario geográfico Argentino (1941)
Boletín de estadística
Censo de Poblacion (1869, 1895, 1914, 1947, 1960, 1970)
Estadística agrícola (1902/4–1917/18)
Digesto de Hacienda (1900–1949)
Resúmenes estadísticos retrospectivos, 1900–1959
In addition, the following unofficial publication was used extensively: Ernesto Torn-quist & Co. Ltd., *The Economic Development of the Argentine Republic in the Last Fifty Years* (Buenos Aires, 1919)
- Barbados** *Abstract of Statistics* (1956 ongoing)
Quarterly Digest of Statistics (1956 ongoing)
- Bolivia** *Boletín estadístico* (1901 ongoing)
Censo de Poblacion (1900, 1950, 1976)
Comercio exterior (1920 ongoing)
Extracto estadístico de Bolivia (1936)
Bolivia en cifras (1973 ongoing)
- Brazil** *Anuário estatístico do Brasil* (1908/12, 1936 ongoing)
Censo de população (1872, 1890, 1900, 1920, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970)
In addition, the following unofficial publication was used: Armin K. Ludwig, Brazil: *Handbook of Historical Statistics* (Boston, 1985)
- British Colonies in general** Blue Books for individual colonies and *Colonial Reports* (In Parliamentary Papers to 1921)
Tables of Revenue, Population and Commerce, etc. of the United Kingdom and its Dependencies (1820–52, in Parliamentary Papers)
Statistical Abstract for the Colonies (1850–1965 with slight variations in title, in Parliamentary Papers to 1947)
Statistical Tables relating to the Colonies (1854–1914 in Parliamentary Papers)
- Canada** *The Canada Year Book* (1905 ongoing)
Statistical Year-book of Canada (1886–1904)
In addition, the following unofficial publication was used extensively: M.C. Urquhart and K.A. Buckley (eds.), *Historical Statistics of Canada* (1st edition, Cambridge, 1965, and Second edition, Ottawa, 1983)
- Chile** *Anuario estadístico* (1848/58–1925; in sub-series by subject from 1911)
Censo de población (1895, 1907, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1952, 1960, 1970)
Síntesis estadística (1928 ongoing)
Estadística Chilena (1928 ongoing)
- Colombia** *Anales de economía y estadística* (1938 ongoing)
Anuario estadístico (1905, 1915 ongoing)
Boletín mensual de estadística (1951 ongoing)
Censo de población (1905, 1912, 1918, 1951, 1964, 1973)
Síntesis estadística de Colombia (1941)
Costa Rica: Anuario estadístico (1883–93, 1907–45, 1948 ongoing)
Informe (of the Dirección General de Estadística) (1897–1908, 1920–47)
Censo de población (1927, 1950, 1963, 1973)
- Cuba** *Anuario Azucarero de Cuba*

	<i>Anuario estadístico</i> (1914, 1952–57)
	<i>Census of Cuba</i> (US Department of War, 1899)
	In addition, the following unofficial publications were used: The Cuban Economic Research Project of the University of Miami, <i>A Study on Cuba</i> (Miami, 1965) and Susan B. Schroeder, <i>A Handbook of Historical Statistics</i> (Boston, 1982)
Cuba	<i>Dominican Anuario estadístico</i> (1936–54)
	<i>Republic: 21 Años de Estadísticas</i> , 1936–1956 (1956)
	Ecuador: <i>Anuario de comercio exterior</i> (1957 ongoing)
	<i>Ecuador en cifras</i> , 1938 a 1942 (1943)
	<i>El trimestre estadístico</i> (1945–47)
	<i>Síntesis estadística</i> (1955–62)
	<i>El Salvador: Anuario estadístico</i> (1911–23, 1927 ongoing)
Guatemala	<i>Annales estadísticos</i> (1882–83)
	<i>Anuario or Informe</i> (of the Dirección General de Estadística) (1882–9, 1891, 1893–4, 1898 & 1928).
	<i>Anuario estadístico</i> (1975)
	<i>Censo de Poblacion</i> (1921, 1940, 1950, 1964, 1973)
	<i>Guatemala en cifras</i> (1955 ongoing)
Guyana	<i>Quarterly Statistical Digest</i> (1965 ongoing)
Haiti	<i>Bulletin Trimestriel de Statistique</i> (1951 ongoing)
Honduras	<i>Anuario estadístico</i> (1889, 1950 ongoing)
	<i>Censo de poblacion</i> (1910, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1961, 1974)
Jamaica	<i>Digest or Abstract of Statistics</i> (1947 ongoing)
Mexico	<i>Anuario estadístico</i> (1893 ongoing)
	<i>Censo de poblacion</i> (1895, 1910, 1921, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970)
	<i>Statistics on the Mexican Economy</i> (1977)
Nicaragua	<i>Anuario estadístico</i> (1930–47, 1964 ongoing)
	<i>Boletín Mensual de estadístico</i> (1930 ongoing)
Panama	<i>Extracto estadístico</i> (1941/3 ongoing)
Paraguay	<i>Anuario estadístico</i> (1886–7, 1914–17, 1940 ongoing)
	<i>Boletín estadístico</i> (1957 ongoing)
	<i>Mensaje del Presidente</i> (1882 ongoing)
Peru	<i>Anuario estadístico</i> (1944 ongoing)
	<i>Censo de poblacion</i> (1940, 1961, 1972)
	<i>Extracto estadístico</i> (1919–43)
Puerto Rico	<i>Monthly Statistical Report</i> (1943 ongoing)
	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1949 ongoing)
Suriname	<i>Jaarcijfers</i> (1887–1922)
Trinidad and Tobago	<i>Statistical Digest</i> (1951 ongoing)
United States	<i>Commerce and Navigation of the United States</i> (1822–1965)
	<i>Historical Statistics of the United States</i> (Bicentennial edition, 1975)
	<i>Statistical Abstract</i> (1887 ongoing)
Uruguay	<i>Anuario estadístico</i> (1884 ongoing)
	<i>Censo de poblacion</i> (1963)
	<i>Síntesis estadística</i> (1919–36)
Venezuela	<i>Anuario estadístico</i> (1872–1912, 1939 ongoing)
	<i>Censo de poblacion</i> (1926, 1936, 1941, 1950, 1961, 1971)
	In addition, the following unofficial publication was used: Miguel Izard, <i>Series estadísticas para la historia de Venezuela</i> (Mérida, 1970)

In addition, certain gaps have been filled from the British *Statistical Abstract for Foreign Countries* (1872–1912, in Parliamentary Papers, where certain other foreign statistics were published occasionally from 1844 onwards), from British *Consular Reports* (in Parliamentary Papers), and from publications of the German Statistical Office, *Die Wirtschaft des Auslandes*, 1900–1927 and *Statistisches Handbuch der Weltwirtschaft*.

The phrase ‘ongoing’ should not be taken to imply that publication has always been continuous.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In compiling a volume of this kind I have, inevitably, contracted a large number of debts for the help which I have been given by a great variety of people. It is impossible to mention every single one of them here, and I hope that those who are not named below will accept this general expression of my gratitude. My major obligation must be to those librarians and their staffs who have put up with the persistent demands which I have made upon them. I would particularly like to thank Mr. Finkell and Mr. Ross of the Marshall Library, Cambridge; Mrs. Peppercorn of the Department of Applied Economics Library, Cambridge; Mr. Vickery and Mr. Noblett and their staff in the Official Publications Department of the Cambridge University Library; Mrs. Hulass and her staff at the Woolwich Repository of the British Library, and the staff of the Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas at Austin.

The Central Statistical Offices of the Republics of Guatemala and Panama very kindly filled certain gaps in the data for their countries. I have received advice and help in identifying sources, and in other aspects of my work, from several of my colleagues and others scattered around the world. In this connection, I would particularly like to thank Professor W.W. Rostow, Dr Gabriel Palma, Dr Brian Pollitt, Mrs. Marie Ruiz, and Mr. C. Short, together with my wife, Ann, who has helped me with the compilation in numerous ways. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Penelope Allport and all others at Macmillan who have been helpful and understanding in seeing the book through to publication. Thanks are also due to Andrew Whitelegg, Nancy Webster and Pranushka Naidoo for their painstaking work on subsequent editions, and to Xiao Xiao Liu for her extensive research on this latest edition.

The publishers have made every effort to contact copyright-holders, but if they have inadvertently overlooked any, they will be pleased to make the necessary arrangement at the first opportunity.

WEIGHTS & MEASURES: CONVERSION RATIOS

The following is not a complete guide to all weights and measures used during the period covered by this volume. It is simply a list of those conversion ratios used in compiling the tables given here.

1 long (or imperial) ton = 1.016047 metric tons

1 short ton = 0.9072 metric tons

1 acre = 0.404686 hectares

1 mile = 1.609344 kilometres

1 Imperial gallon = 0.0454596 hectolitres

1 US gallon = 0.037854 hectolitres

1 US barrel (oil) = 158.95 litres

1 Imperial bushel = 0.363677 hectolitres

SYMBOLS

... = not available

- - = less than half the smallest digit used in the table

— = nil

INTRODUCTION TO THE EUROPE VOLUME

Statistics are used nowadays not just as illustrations or to give a rough sense of proportions or magnitudes involved but as a major raw material of much economic history, especially of economic growth. Since the subject is by its very nature concerned with quantities, this is an inevitable and welcome development, though no sensible historian would ever claim that statistics can tell the whole story. Aggregative national statistics conceal local and regional detail which may be important in explaining the national picture, and no one doubts that an average may hide as much as it reveals.

In response to the demand for historical statistics, there has appeared since the late 1950s a number of collections for individual countries. The USA was the pioneer in this respect¹, followed by a majority of European countries. Not all are yet as complete as one would wish. Czechoslovakia (since World War II), Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the USSR (since 1917), and Yugoslavia have all been covered more or less comprehensively by publications sponsored by their governments. The French have long designated occasional volumes of their *Annuaire Statistique* as Volumes Retrospectifs. In addition, the Bank of Finland has produced several editions of *Studies on Finland's Economic Growth* which include many historical series; notably one by Riitta Hjerpe, which has been translated into English. Other countries have been covered unofficially—Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom.²

When the first edition of this book was conceived over thirty years ago, many of these publications had not appeared. The time then seemed ripe for gathering into one place the major statistical series for a number of different countries, especially in the light of burgeoning interest in comparative development. That interest has not abated and there still remains the need for a collection covering many countries. The objective of this volume is to fulfil this need—to provide economists and historians with a wide range of mainly economic statistical data without the difficulty of identifying sources and the considerable labour of extracting data from many different places, and of transforming variously defined annual figures into long comparable time-series.

There is a variety of statistical data going back into the Middle Ages for some countries but it is usually of a rather haphazard and incomplete nature—the output of precious metals, the trade of a particular port or in a particular commodity. In view of this and of the fact that modern economic growth is generally held to have begun with the British industrial revolution, which is dated at the earliest from the middle of the eighteenth century, it was decided to fix the starting date of this volume at 1750. This is not to imply that there are no useful statistics for earlier periods. It will be obvious even to the casual user of this work that there was no sudden beginning to the collection of large numbers of statistical series in the second half of the eighteenth century.

That there are pitfalls for the unwary user of statistics needs no saying and this is not the place to attempt to summarise those traps of which any introductory textbook will warn. However, there are certain problems of particular prominence in historical statistics to which attention may properly be drawn. The biggest single and most obvious problem is lack of availability of the data we should like to have, at any rate until the last four or five decades. There is a comparable though less apparent problem in the existence of data which *seem* to relate to the same things in different countries or at different times, but which do not in fact do so. Some sorts of data are available in these cases but not the precise sort which we require. Basically, these are problems of definition. For example, in some times and places exports include bullion, in others they do not. Pig iron can include or exclude ferro-alloys; bank deposits may include those of other banks or they may not; corn output can be measured by volume or by weight; and so on. Often there is nothing one can do about this lack of uniformity except indicate its existence and warn against glib comparisons. One can find little comfort, however, in the fact that failure to observe such warnings is one of the main reasons why statistics have sometimes been held to be worse than 'damned lies'! Kindred definitional difficulties are provided by the numerous changes in the boundaries of European countries during the 260 years covered here.

Two problems are peculiar to historical statistics. The first is a mechanical one created by the variable and unknown efficiency of past collectors and compilers of statistics (including the present one), and their printers, and the impossibility of ever being able to check on these qualities. This is a situation with which one has to live, keeping a vigilant eye on one's credulity and endeavouring to estimate margins of error. Too often users of historical statistics—and we are nearly all guilty of this—take best-estimate figures for their calculations without working out the effects on their analysis of compounding margins of error.