

## NEWS OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

This section of the *Review* will report each quarter on noteworthy developments in the field of national economic accounting. Newly available data, new methodological developments, and new applications of methodology of significance to members of the profession engaged either in the production of national economic accounting data or in the use of such data for analytical purposes will be briefly noted. In the preparation of material for this section, the secretary gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the Association's correspondents throughout the world, without whose continuing efforts such a news section could not be compiled.

### *Hungary*

*Centenary Statistics Session.* In May 1967 a Centenary Statistics Session will be held in Budapest on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the Hungarian Statistical Office, which has operated without interruption since May 19, 1867. Among the proceedings will be two scientific events, the Second Scientific Conference on Statistics (May 18–20), and the Fifth Session on the History of Statistics (May 23–25).

The Second Scientific Conference on Statistics, which is being organized by Margaret A. Mód, will be in two sections: (A) The Analysis of Economic Processes, and (B) Population and Social Investigations. In each section five topics will be dealt with. Section A will cover questions on the new Hungarian national accounts, and some problems of economic forecasting, input-output matrixes, and econometric models. Section B will deal with income studies related to the Hungarian population, social stratification and mobility inquiries, and demographic investigations. About sixty papers are expected, all by Hungarian authors; it is expected that a volume of these papers will be published.

The Session on the History of Statistics, organized by Dr. Z. Kenessey, has been held annually since 1963. Among the topics to be discussed at the Fifth Session are the history of national income estimation in Hungary, early developments in Hungarian price and financial statistics, etc.

*Econometric models.* The Laboratory of Statistical and Mathematical Methods for Economic Application, established in 1963 within the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, is performing a series of experiments in building econometric models. As a first step, the aggregate model M-1 was developed, and published in *The Econometric Model M-1 of Hungary* (by Halabuk, Kenessey, Theiss, Kotasz, and Nyary), Central Statistical Office, Budapest, 1965 (in Hungarian, with summary in English). (See also: "The Econometric Model M-1 of Hungary", by Halabuk, Kenessey, and Theiss, *Economics of Planning*, Oslo, 1965, No. 3.) The equation system of the model M-1 includes five structural

equations (production equations for income originating in agriculture and non-agricultural industry, final use of the national income, consumption of the population, and labor force), and four identities with nine endogenous and ten predetermined variables. The data used covered a period of 14 years (1949–1962). The estimation of the simultaneous equation system was carried out by the two-stage least squares method of Theil. Several alternatives of the model were also developed, using an aggregate production function, partial estimates by the classical least squares method, etc. The model was used for both ex-post forecasting and for simulation.

*Income distribution.* The Hungarian Central Statistical Office has carried out two large-scale sample surveys of the income distribution of the population. The first, in 1960, covered worker-employee households only. The second, in 1963, covered the whole population; work on this second survey is just being completed. The chief purpose of the second survey was the study of social stratification, with income distribution as one factor. The sample was a stratified multi-stage random one, a 25 percent subsample of the micro-census of 1963 composed of 15,000 households. The households were visited by interviewers, and the information thus gained was supplemented by data gathered from the relevant enterprises, co-operatives, etc., concerning the yearly earnings of each earner in the sample. The results were published in six volumes: (1) *Income Conditions of the Population in 1962 (Preliminary Results 1964)*; (2) *Income Distribution of Co-operative Peasantry (1965)*; (3) *The Twenty-Four Hours of the Day (1965)*; (4) *Earnings of Workers and Employees (1966)*; (5) *Social Stratification in Hungary (1966)*; and (6) *Income Distribution in Hungary (1967)*.

### *Mexico*

The Department of Economic Studies of the Banco de Mexico has prepared an input-output table for Mexico for the year 1960. It was published under the title, "Cuadro de Insumo-Producto de Mexico, 1960", in December 1966.

### *Sweden*

The Central Bureau of Statistics of Sweden has recently published a new set of national accounts tables, covering gross domestic product, compensation of employees, and other components of value added by sector of origin for the years 1950–1964 (Statistical Reports V 1966:15). This publication also contains an English summary of methods of calculation and the more important conceptual matters.

### *Switzerland*

The Federal Bureau of Statistics had just published an explanation of the methods of calculation of the national accounts of Switzerland (*Cadre, définitions et bases statistiques des comptes nationaux de la Suisse*). The national accounts were first prepared in 1963, following the standard system of the OEEC, initially

in the form of partial preliminary results for 1960 through 1962, then for 1938 and 1948 through 1963 (*La Vie Economique*, 1964, No. 9). The latest publication contains primarily an extension of the earlier estimates of net national product and national income through the addition of income. A number of related tables, in particular the distributions among branches of activity and products, could not be estimated or remain in summary form. The estimates still depend to an important degree on fragmentary information graciously provided by enterprises and professional associations. The present publication is essentially a description of these sources.

Quarterly estimates of gross national product are being calculated beginning in 1966 for principal categories of expenditures. These are obtained by extrapolating, on the basis of various short-term indicators, the most recent annual accounting figures. The results are published, at first provisionally, with a delay of about two months.