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THE CONTENTS OF INDUSTRIAL SURVEYS^{1/}

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^{1/} The opinions expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the secretariat of UNIDO.

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We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.

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An industrial survey report presents a synthesis of the data obtained either

- (i) by the direct or indirect collection of information on the units (enterprises and establishments) making up the industrial sector; or
- (ii) by the compilation of data from outside the system of industrial statistics (e.g. population, balance of payments, school and vocational training attendance, foreign trade, international standards for the assessment of performance, etc.).

While compilation requires wide knowledge and an orderly and methodical approach, it does not involve a set of techniques which can be taught. In this second part of the training programme, concerning the methods and organization of the collection and processing of data on industrial units, the method of compilation will not be discussed.

I. Data to be obtained and data to be collected

1.1 The purpose of an industrial survey determines the body of data to be obtained by collection. This means:

(a) Information collected at intervals of more than one year (normally five years), for purposes of evaluation and review, with the following aims:

To describe the structure and performance of industry as a whole and of its branches (spatial, legal and technical concentration, integration, production functions, on capital, labour productivity, propensity to export);

To provide material for a study of the market for industrial products, concerning mainly the factors of supply and demand by industry (quantity produced by the largest enterprises, uses of production; intermediate consumption and gross fixed capital formation);

To provide the basis for current statistics (national accounts and short-term industrial indicators).

(b) Data collected annually which are necessary for the preparation of economic budgets (the control and implementation of the annual portion of a plan), with the following aims:

To provide the material for the up-dating and projection of annual national accounts;

To provide the production figures for different products, and the material for statistics on the activities of industry as a whole and its branches.

(c) Material collected at intervals of less than a year (at least quarterly) with a view to obtaining short-term information and making decisions on short-term economic policy, and thus:

To provide current statistics for short-term industrial indicators: Laspeyres' index of industrial production, turnover, stocks, orders, employment and production capacity.

1.2 The data to be obtained depend solely on the purposes of the survey. The data to be collected are determined on the basis of the data to be obtained, but with due allowance for the statistical and accounting practices of enterprises and establishments. For instance, the value added which is given by the national accounts is calculated at market prices; for this reason, among others, it cannot be obtained by combining the data collected from enterprises; in accounting, stocks of products or raw materials produced in the industry, as well as deliveries within the enterprise which are included in the calculation of the value of production or of intermediate consumption, are generally valued at cost price and not at market price.

"The body of data to be collected" thus means the body of replies to the questions put to the enterprise, using terminology of the enterprises, whatever may be the method of questioning: a questionnaire proper, an interview, or an administrative declaration. The annexed table shows the main data to be collected in industrial surveys, by unit and by frequency.

II. Specific collection and administrative statistics

2.1 To reduce the work of the State and enterprises in filling in, collecting and processing statistical questionnaires and compulsory administrative declarations it is normally an advantage to use the statistical by-products of administration. Thus, statistics on foreign trade, by a method that has become classic, are derived from a statistical analysis of customs declarations. Similarly, tax authorities base the calculation of taxes on the declarations submitted by enterprises; these declarations are basically in the form of an operating account and balance sheets for the beginning and end of the financial year. The introduction of harmonized accounting procedures by enterprises is of decisive importance in improving the quality of the data which can be obtained by statistical processing of the standard annual declarations submitted by enterprises, the results of which are intended among other things for the annual up-dating of national accounts.

The decision to use these indirect statistics, to complement rather than compete with data from direct collection by industrial survey, should be taken when the following three conditions are fulfilled:

- (a) The coverage by indirect statistics must have a one-to-one relation with the coverage of the industrial survey;
- (b) The declarations submitted by enterprises must be harmonized, so that the same category of variables meeting the same definitions are measured throughout the population covered;
- (c) The institute of statistics must help establish methods and time schedules for the collection and processing of declarations.

2.2 If these conditions are fulfilled, direct collection can cover

- (a) Data to be collected which cannot be obtained through the utilization of administrative declarations;
- (b) Basic data, which are needed to check the results obtained from the two sources of data and if necessary bring them into line with each other. These basic data are usually the number of employees and the turn-over.

If these conditions are not fulfilled, the industrial survey must cover the whole range of data to be collected. The external data then merely supply material which is useful for purposes of comparison so as to increase the efficiency of the system as a whole.

III. Classification systems

The definition of the data to be obtained in an industrial survey cannot be reduced to a mere definition of the units and variables. The classification system for the units must be made clear. Apart from the fact that to establish a classification of legal forms or to determine the degree of detail necessary in a product nomenclature, for instance, affects the preparation of the questionnaire, it also makes possible a comprehensive description of the tables to be produced, and this is a sign of a well-prepared survey.

The devising of the classification systems is a technical problem which is of no great interest to the Government and public, but there are other official bodies which use classifications and whose views must be taken into consideration. For instance, the foreign trade nomenclature should be similar to the product nomenclature used in the industrial survey.

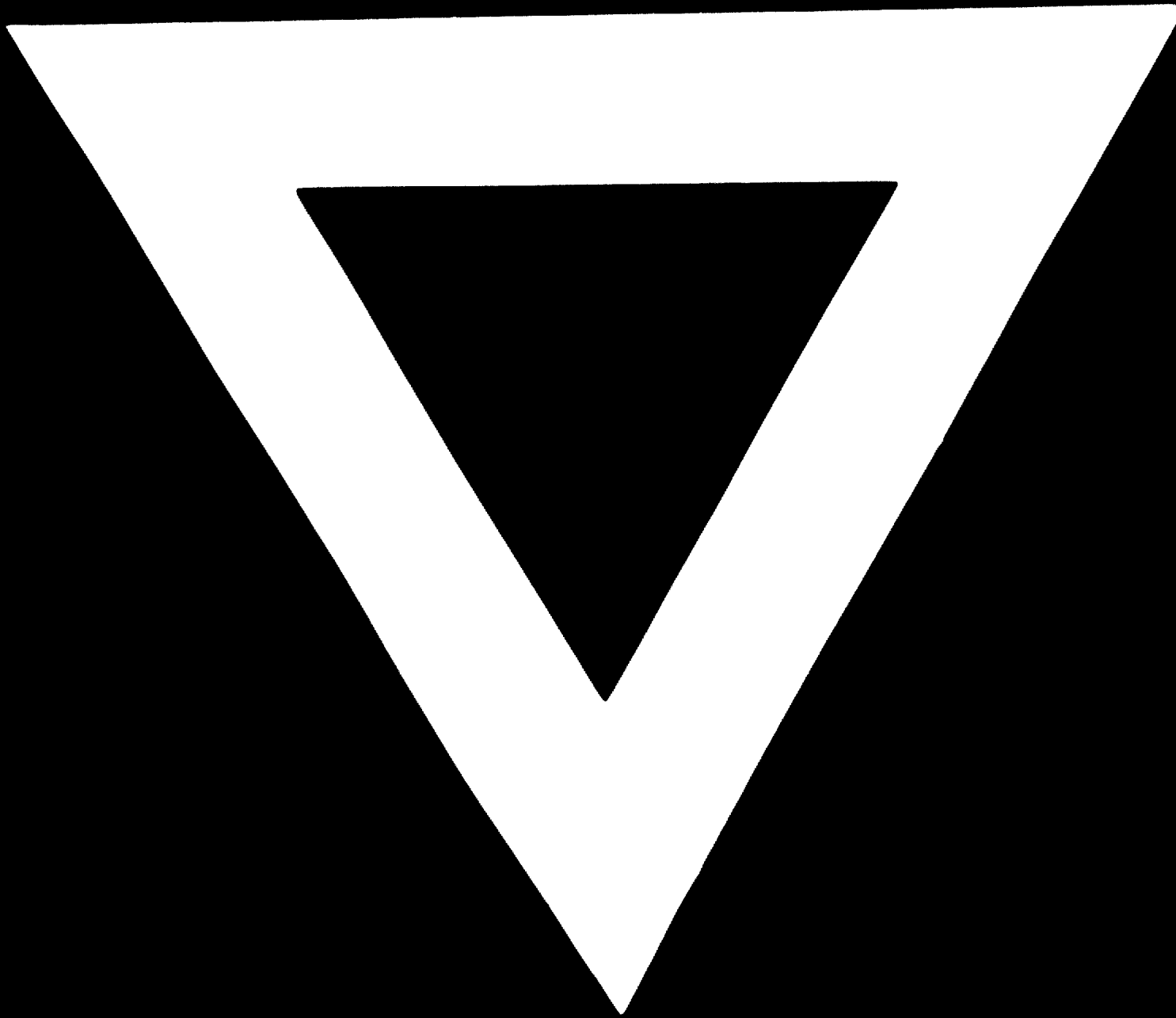
In establishing the classification of activities and products, reference can be made to the international recommendations, the basic classifications in these two fields being the ISIC and SITC. The other main classifications and codes used in the analysis of industrial surveys are:

The classification of legal forms;

The codes for dimensional categories: staff, turnover, value added;

The geographical code.

In order to be efficient, the classification system should make distinctions which are economically significant and which exist in the industrial structure. For instance, the classification of activities should not show separately categories of activities which are normally carried on in the same establishment. Conversely, two important activities which are normally carried on in different establishments should not be grouped in the same category.



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