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# GAO RESEARCH GUIDE

*Audit Reference Services*  
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## International Economic and Financial Statistics

SCOPE: This guide lists resources available in GAO's Technical Library which provide substantial statistical information in the areas of international finance and economics. Selected books, periodicals, data bases, and agency contacts are included. The Technical Library is located in Room 6536 of the GAO Headquarters Building, and Library staff are happy to assist you in locating materials. Requests for computerized literature searches may be directed to the librarian assigned to work with your division, or in the case of regional offices without Technical Information Specialists, staff members can contact the Library at 275-5180.

The Technical Library has issued three other publications in the area of international affairs which may be useful in conjunction with this one. They are Basic Sources of International Petroleum Statistics (GAO Acc. No. 112639), International Affairs: A Listing of Major Journals (GAO Acc. No. 113317), and Information Sources on Foreign Countries: An Annotated Listing (GAO Acc. No. 114531). These publications are available from GAO's Document Handling Facility at 275-6241.

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## SUBJECT HEADINGS

The Library's card catalog is the starting point for any research on international financial topics. Check the "subject" section of the catalog for lists of books and other materials which deal with your specific question.

Some relevant headings are:

Commercial Statistics

Finance - - Statistics

Finance, Public - - Statistics

Foreign Exchange - - Statistics

Statistics - - Bibliography

Check also under place-names, i.e., countries, continents, etc., subdivided by "Statistics," such as "Europe - - Statistics."

## SELECTED BOOKS

These books, available in the Technical Library's reference collection, contain substantial statistical information in the international economics/finance areas.

COMECON Foreign Trade Data 1980. Ed. by the Vienna Institute for Comparative Economic Studies. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1981.

Ref. HF3491.5.C65 1980

The Europa Year Book. 2 vols. London: Europa. Annual.

Ref. JN1.E85

Europe's 5000 Largest Companies. 1980 ed. New York: Dun & Bradstreet International, 1980.

Ref. HD2844.E9

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. FAO Commodity Review and Outlook, 1979-1980. Rome: FAO, 1979.

Ref. HF1040.F6

Government Finance Statistics Yearbook. Washington, D.C.: International Monetary Fund, 1980.

Ref. HJ9105.I5 1980

International Financial Statistics Yearbook, 1981. Washington, D.C.: International Monetary Fund, 1981. Annual.

Ref. HG61.I612 1980

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Developing Countries, 1976/1979. Paris: OECD, 1981.

Ref. HG3891.5.G46

National Foreign Assessment Center. Handbook of Economic Statistics. Washington, D.C.: GPO. Annual.

Ref. HC10.H36

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. National Accounts Statistics: Statistiques des comptes nationaux, 1950-1979. Paris: OECD, 1981.

Ref. HC79.I5067

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Trade by Commodities, Market Summaries: Imports. Paris: OECD, 1979.

Ref. HF91.0813

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. OECD Financial Statistics. Paris: OECD, 1981.

Ref. HF91.07

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Trade by Commodities, Market Summaries: Exports. Paris: OECD, 1979.

Ref. HF91.0812

The Statesman's Yearbook. New York: St. Martin's Press. Annual.

Ref. JA51.S7

United Nations. Dept. of International Economic and Social Affairs. Statistical Office. Statistical Yearbook, 1979-80. New York: United Nations, 1981.

Ref. HA12.5U63

United Nations. Dept. of International Economic and Social Affairs. Statistical Office. World Statistics in Brief. 5th ed. New York: United Nations, 1981.

Ref. HA12.5.U632W6

United Nations. Statistical Office. 1979 Yearbook of International Trade Statistics. 2 vols. New York: United Nations, 1980.

Ref. HF91.U473

U.S. Agency for International Development. U.S. Overseas Loans and Grants and Assistance from International Organizations. Washington, D.C.: A.I.D., 1945-

Ref. HC60.U624

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Guide to Foreign Trade Statistics, 1979. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1980.

Ref. HF105.A23 1979

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Economics and Statistics Service.  
U.S. Foreign Agricultural Trade Statistical Report, Calendar  
Year 1980. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 1981.

Ref. HD9004.A34 1980

U.S. Dept. of Commerce. International Trade Administration. Foreign  
Economic Trends and Their Implications for the United States.  
Washington, D.C.: GPO. Semiannual.

Ref. HC10.F55

World Bank. World Tables. 2nd ed. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ.  
Press, 1980.

Ref. HC59.W67

Year Book of Labour Statistics: Annuaire des statistiques du  
travail: Anuario de estadísticas del trabajo. Geneva:  
International Labour Office, 1980.

Ref. HD4826.Y4

## INDEXES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

The following indexes and bibliographies, located in the Library's reference collection, list many statistical publications on economics and finance. A reference librarian will assist you.

American Statistics Index. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Information Service. Monthly.

Ref. Z7554.U5A46

Harvey, Joan M. Statistics Europe: Sources For Social, Economic and Market Research. 3rd ed. Detroit: Gale research Co., 1976.

Ref. HA37.E93

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Published Offical Sources of Financial Statistics. Paris: OECD, 1980.

Ref. HG176.P83 1979

Predicasts F & S Index Europe. Cleveland: Predicasts, Inc. Monthly.

Ref. Z7164.C81F12

Predicasts F & S Index International. Cleveland: Predicasts, Inc. Monthly.

Ref. Z7164.C81F13

SISCIS: Subject Index to Sources of Comparative International Statistics. Comp. F.C. Peiper. Detroit: Gale Research, 1978.

Ref. Z7551.P54

Statistical Reference Index. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Information Service. Monthly.

Ref. Z7554.S8

## NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

Newspapers and periodicals provide current statistical information on international economics and finance. These periodicals and newspapers received in the Technical Library contain much valuable statistical material.

AEI Economist  
Asian Wall Street Journal Weekly  
Bulletin for International Fiscal Documentation  
Business America  
CERES; FAO Review on Agriculture and Development  
Columbia Journal of World Business  
Direction of Trade Statistics  
Economic Geography  
Economic Development and Cultural Change  
Economic Indicators Weekly Review  
Euromoney  
Far Eastern Economic Review  
Finance and Development  
Financial Statistics Monthly  
Financial Times  
Financial Times of London World Business Weekly  
Fortune  
Harvard Business Review  
Highlights of U.S. Export and Import Trade  
Historical Statistics  
IMF Survey  
International Economic Indicators  
International Economic Scoreboard  
International Financial Statistics  
Journal of Commerce and Commercial  
Main Economic Indicators: Principaux Indicateurs Economiques (OECD)  
Monthly Bulletin of Statistics; Bulletin Mensual de Statistique (U.N.)  
OECD Economic Outlook  
OPEC Bulletin  
OPEC Review  
Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Exports  
Petroleum Economist  
Petroleum Situation  
Quarterly Oil Statistics; Statistiques Trimestrielles du Petrole  
World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates

## REFERRAL SOURCES

In addition to the resources available through the GAO Technical Library, a number of outside agency contacts may prove valuable sources of information in the areas of international economics and financial statistics. Some that are particularly useful are:

European Community  
Information Service Library  
2100 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037

(202) 862-9500

Provides reference services related to the European Economic, Coal, and Steel and Atomic Energy Communities. Also contains reference material on international trade and monetary subjects.

Eximbank Library  
811 Vermont Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20571

(202) 566-8320

Contains collection of materials in the areas of foreign relations, commerce, and financial and trade statistics.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)  
IMF Data Fund  
700 19th St, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20431

(202) 477-2963

Maintains four computerized data bases containing time series as published in the Fund's statistical publications. Areas of interest include international finance, international trade, balance of payments, and government finance statistics. Services are free to member governments.



Joint Bank-Fund Library  
700 19th St., N.W., Room 3-100  
Washington, D.C. 20431

(202) 477-3168

Answers inquiries on the economic conditions of member countries. Areas of interest include economic planning, commodities and foreign trade statistics. Library is jointly sponsored by the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank.)

Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD)  
Information Center  
1750 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 724-1857

The center provides information on OECD publications and serves as a reference library containing materials on subjects related to the agriculture, economics, and foreign trade of member countries.

United Nations Information Center  
2101 L St., N.W.  
Suite 209  
Washington, D.C. 20037

(202) 296-5370

Reference assistance in the areas of economics, finance, international law, and statistics. Special collection of U.N. documents.

U.S. Dept. of Commerce  
International Trade Administration  
14th St. and Constitution Ave. N.W., Room 4814B  
Washington, D.C. 20230

(202) 377-2456

Office maintains computerized statistics on East-West trade. Also provides information in the areas of economic analysis and forecasting.

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## COMPUTER SEARCH SERVICES

In addition to the many printed sources available in the Technical Library, the Audit Reference Services Section accesses a number of computerized data bases which can provide bibliographies on aspects of international finance and economics. This is a listing of some of the data bases which are particularly useful. Contact the librarian assigned to work with your division for additional information or when requesting a computerized literature search.

Bi/Data Time Series--Composed of numeric business data from 131 countries. Includes GDP, price indexes, import-export information, wages, etc.

Economics Abstracts International--Contains references to international books, journals, and reports, many in foreign languages, on economic and finance subjects.

Foreign Traders Index--Provides data collected by the U.S. Foreign Service on firms that import goods from the U.S., including type of firm, officers, size of firm, etc.

MEDAB (Middle East Data Base)-- Covers general and business news from and about the countries of the Middle East.

PAIS International--Provides access to periodical articles, books, pamphlets, public and private agency publications and yearbooks from around the world.

PE Business News--Contains references to articles from major suppliers of petroleum and energy business newsletters and periodicals. Includes statistical reports.

PTS F&S Indexes--Covers U.S., European, and other international reports, letters, newspapers, and journals, providing company, product, and industry information as well as reporting on general economic factors.

PTS International Time Series--Comprised of statistics and statistical projections for production and price for individual countries and industries as well as general economic and income series.

Trade Opportunities and Trade Opportunities Weekly--Contains information supplied to the Dept. of Commerce by the Foreign Service on purchase requests from around the world for U.S. goods and services.

U.S. Exports--Contains statistics collected by the Census Bureau on exports of merchandise to other countries.