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THE SHORT FORM OF ECONOMIC SURVEY -
THE ECONOMIC DATA SUMMARY

The Short Form of Economic Survey -
The Economic Data Summary

The ECA has been working towards publishing a volume (which could be an annual publication) on the individual countries of Africa. Much work has been done in the past on writing subregional surveys and on the annual economic survey of Africa which attempts to describe the developments on the African continent. A statistical bulletin is also published periodically which compares the countries in Africa through their statistics. These last two publications are particularly valuable for the purpose of examining Africa as a whole and comparing progress between countries, but they are of only limited interest for those persons or organisations interested only in particular individual countries. The production of a volume covering the individual countries (there will be some 45 countries in the volume) should serve to meet the requirement for such information.

The format to be used in describing (briefly) the individual countries is set out below; it might be adopted in the countries themselves in preparing short summaries of economic data of use to administrators, politicians and specialists of all kinds. The circulation of such documents between countries would assist in the understanding of each other's problems and progress and would help in the movement towards African co-operation and unity. By keeping the summary relatively short it becomes a document of particular use to busy politicians and administrators who have only limited time at their disposal for keeping abreast of general developments in fields other than their own specialisation. The summary can be presented in about 15 to 20 pages.

The headings and suggested content are as follows:-

Population, total and growth rate.

Wage Employment, latest data on numbers employed and total earnings.

GDP, total at current factor cost and current market prices for last few years. Any data on growth at constant prices.

Currency and Exchange Rate with the U.S. dollar.

Development Plans, last few plans giving period and title

Energy:

Electricity, production and consumption annually in million kwh and installed capacity. Details of any large new planned developments.

Petroleum Products, production figures from local oil wells and local refinery. If crude oil is imported the total tonnage should be given; if products are imported these details should be shown. Export tonnages of crude oil, natural gas and products should also be given (if applicable). Details of new developments and plans should be shown and also progress made in exploring for petroleum.

Production:

Mineral Production; a short description of the mineral deposits together with production and export statistics. Any planned developments should be given.

Agricultural Production; first a short description of the main commercial crops and the crops grown for local consumption, then statistics of production (and sales) for the last few years. The crop estimates for the latest season(s) should be given. Details of export tonnages of major products should be shown together with the import tonnages of the major items which could be grown locally. Planned developments should be described.

Livestock; figures of herds and recorded slaughterings should be given together with details of (major) exports and planned developments. If the country is an important dairy producer, details of milk produced and products made should be given.

Fishing; production statistics for the last few years should be given and details of the major items manufactured (fish meal, fish oil, tinned products) if manufacture has started. Planned developments should be shown.

Forestry; statistics should cover the area of forests, production of timber and the uses (including exports). Planned developments (particularly of afforestation) should be given.

Exports of Agricultural Produce; if details have not been given under the various sections (agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing) they can be shown here; tonnages only should be given as the values are given later under external trade.

Development Expenditure in Agriculture etc; details should be given of the planned expenditure by major headings.

Manufacturing Industry, details should be given of the growth in the contribution of manufacturing industry to the GDP, and gross and net output and employment for recent years. Production statistics (in quantity) of the more important products would be very valuable and details of major new development also. Details of the incentives for the development of private industry and investments should be shown.

Transport:

Roads, the length of roads by category [e.g. first class (bitumen), first class (other), etc, etc.] should be shown for recent years. Details of present and planned road projects should be given in brief outline.

Road Motor Vehicles, total licensed or in use by main types; details of new registrations.

Rail Transport, length of the existing line and total of rolling stock for latest period; details of traffic statistics and recent and planned (major) developments.

Air Transport; this should cover details of the local carrier (including aircraft used), traffic statistics, and recent and planned developments.

Ports and Harbours, traffic statistics for the major ports and details of projects to improve or expand existing facilities.

Water Transport, details of the extent of the services should be given together with any statistics; planned developments should also be shown.

Shipping, tonnages of local registered vessels and details of any proposed developments should be shown.

Tourism; this heading should cover tourist statistics for recent years, the foreign earnings from tourism and details of the attractions and recent and planned developments. If available the number of hotel rooms and beds should be shown.

External Trade; this should cover for the last few years a summary of the trade (total exports and imports and trade balance), the principal export and import items (also by S.I.T.C. groups if available) and the main trading partners. All figures in value only. Details should also be given of membership of trading areas.

Balance of Payments; for the last few years giving the main constituents under current and capital account respectively.

Prices; index numbers for consumer and wholesale prices for the last few years.

Education; enrolment statistics for the last few years and details of recent and planned developments.

Health; statistics of hospital beds and health personnel for the last few years, and details of recent and planned developments.

Public Finance; this should cover the central government accounts for the last few years in summary, by sources of revenue and details of expenditure by headings distinguishing capital and recurrent revenue and expenditure. For the last and current years the details from the estimates should be given.

Public Debt; details of the totals for the last few years distinguishing internal and external debt.

Banking and Finance; this should cover for the last few years the central bank statistics (currency on issue, foreign exchange reserves, bankers deposits and government deposits); commercial bank statistics (demand and other deposits, credit granted and net foreign exchange position; statistics for other institutions (Post Office Savings Bank,

Agricultural Banks, Building Societies etc). The total money supply and total credit granted should also be shown.

Development; if available, statistics for recent years should cover the gross fixed capital investment, apparent cement consumption, and imports of machinery and transport equipment. Any information of the progress of recent development plans and of the total planned development in the current plan period should also be given.

National Accounts; this should cover for recent years the GDP at current factor cost by industrial origin and details of the distribution of the national income.

Sources; to cover all sources used in compiling the summary.

Note: this should indicate the type of weights and measures in use and conversion ratios to metric weights and measures (if applicable).