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THE PRESENT STATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS  
IN THE BELGIAN CONGO AND RUANDA-URUNDI

Paper submitted by the Belgian Delegation

THE PRESENT STATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS IN THE  
BELGIAN CONGO AND RUANDA-URUNDI

I. Date of incertion of the specialized unit.

The Statistical Office of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi has been operating since the beginning of 1948.

II. Attributions of the specialized unit.

Its attributions have been legally defined as follows:

- to produce statistics for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi;
- to assemble and publish statistical information compiled by the Office itself, or based on the routine work of various departments;
- to carry out mechanical tabulation for the various administrative departments;
- to study from the scientific and technical point of view statistics based on the routine work of the various departments and which, therefore, cannot be compiled by the Statistical Office;
- to act as secretariat to the Statistical Board;
- to provide technical guidance for the provincial Statistical Sections.

III. Organization and means of action of the specialized unit.

The following provisions have been made to ensure efficient operation:

(a) Legal provisions

Legislation passed on 11 March 1948, authorizing the Government of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi to undertake statistical surveys and setting up the Statistical Board.

(b) Personnel

At present, budgetary provision is made for a staff of 270 (40 Europeans and 230 Africans)

Staff increases from inception to date.

YEAR	EUROPEANS	AFRICANS	TOTAL	REMARKS
1948	7	16	23	
49	7	24	31	
50	7	32	39	
51	7	32	39	
52	7	37	44	
53	10	42	52	
54	10	42	52	
55	10	42	52	
56	11	54	65	
57	27	130	157	Setting up of provincial sections
58	31	140	171	National accounts branch incorporated in the Office.
1959	40	230	270	Incorporation of the Demographic Office.

In 1957 and 1958, several Statistical Office staff members attended a six month refresher course organized by the Ecole d'Application de l'Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques de Paris (INSEE).

(c) Technical facilities

Since 1948, the Office has been using a complete punched card equipment system (I.B.M.). In 1957, seven provincial sections were set up and also equipped with a punched card unit.

IBM Equipment of the Statistical Office

Type of machinery	N U M B E R									
	G.G.	P R O V I N C E S						KASAI	R.U.	GRAND TOTAL
		IEQ.	EQUAT.	ORIENT.	KIVU	KATANGA				
Tabulators 421	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
" 416	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Reproducers 513	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
" 519	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Interclassifiers 077	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
" 089	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Calc. machines 604	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
" 604/5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
" 602/A	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Sorters	7	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	16
Interpreters	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Punches	16	-	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	47
Verifiers	13	7	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	37
Transfer posting	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

(d) Budget

The total budget appropriations approved for the year 1959 is 45,775,000 Congolese francs, viz. 20,768,000 francs for the General Government, and 25,007,000 francs for the provincial sections. For the year 1960, budget estimates amount to 63,500,000 francs, including 32,630,000 for the General Government.

The following table shows the annual budgets of the office since its inception.

ANNUAL BUDGETS OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE (in thousands of Congolese francs)

YEAR	GENERAL GOVERNMENT			PROVINCES AND R.U.			TOTAL BUDGET		
	Staff	Equipment Supplies	Total	Staff	Equipment Supplies	Total	Staff	Equipment Supplies	Total
1948		2.029		-	-	-		2.029	
1949		2.167		-	-	-		2.167	
1950		2.051		-	-	-		2.051	
1951		2.300		-	-	-		2.300	
1952		2.367		-	-	-		2.367	
1953	4.635	3.151	7.786	-	-	-	4.635	3.151	7.786
1954	5.062	3.796	8.858	-	-	-	5.062	3.796	8.858
1955	5.602	4.792	10.394	-	-	-	5.602	4.792	10.394
1956	5.878	7.860	13.738	-	-	-	5.878	7.860	13.738
1957	7.306	9.152	16.458	7.365	12.314	19.679	14.671	21.466	36.137
1958	10.321	7.673	17.994	9.524	10.948	20.472	19.845	18.621	38.466
1959	11.018	9.750	20.768	10.262	14.745	25.007	21.280	24.495	45.775
1960 (est.)	22.729	9.901	32.630	12.017	18.879	30.896	34.746	28.780	63.526

Note: The estimate in respect of the Statistical Office Staff was not itemized until 1953; budget estimates were previously assessed for the whole of the Government service.

e) Administrative organization

At present, the Bureau of Statistics is part of the Direction générale des Affaires Economiques of the General Government, Leopoldville. It includes two branches, dealing respectively with "Studies and surveys", and "National accounts". The latter branch was set up after incorporation by the Statistical Office of the skeleton unit which had been attached for several years to the Ten-year Plan Commission to assess the national income.

In this respect, it may be mentioned that since October 1959 the Institut d'Emission de la Banque Centrale du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi has been publishing national income estimates based on statistical material provided by the Government. These estimates can only be improved by more accurate and comprehensive statistical material. This is the main task of the National Accounts Branch. There is therefore no duplication of the work of the Central Bank; in addition, the Branch is engaged in producing economic tables, including the so-called "Input-Output" table. This work is now at the experimental stage, and is limited to the trusteeship territories of Ruanda-Urundi.

Since 1 January 1957, a statistical service under the technical control of the Statistical Office is attached to each provincial section of the Bureau of Economic Affairs.

Thus, the Statistical Office is able, as far as its general work of statistical survey is concerned, to cover more efficiently the vast territory of the Congo, while leaving to each Province Governor a measure of initiative at the local level.

Lastly, since 1st April 1959, the Demographic Office which was previously attached to the Direction générale des Affaires Indigènes et Sociales, was incorporated in the Statistical Office. The Demographic Office had been set up

in 1953, and had reorganized population surveys in close cooperation with the Statistical Office.

#### IV. Publications by the Statistical Office

The Office issues the following publications:

- Bulletin Mensuel du Commerce Extérieur du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi.  
(Monthly Bulletin of External Trade for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi).
- Bulletin Mensuel des Statistiques générales du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi.  
(Monthly Bulletin of General Statistics for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi).
- Annuaire statistique du Congo Belge.  
(Statistical Yearbook for the Belgian Congo).

#### V. Achievements

From the outset, it was considered that the use of mechanical means for some important administrative tasks would result both in greater efficiency and in the production of first class statistical information.

Consequently, during its first years of existence, the Office concentrated on the organization of mechanical operations rather than on strictly statistical work. However, at the same time, the Office was preparing new detailed statistical enquiries in a number of different fields.

Mechanical tabulation of the following was successively achieved:

- (1) salaries of Government service personnel;
- (2) Government supply stores (itemization of supplies, invoicing, stock-keeping);
- (3) budget estimates;
- (4) monthly budget accounting;
- (5) personnel records;
- (6) transport tax computing;

- (7) motor vehicle registration;
- (8) telephone accounts.

In addition, the Statistical Office took an active part in the reorganization of population censuses.

#### VI. Statistical Board

- Date of inception: 1st July 1948.
- Terms of reference: The Statistical Board advises the Governor-General on all statistical matters.

No new statistical work can be undertaken by the administrative departments of the Belgian Congo, nor can existing statistical activities be adjourned or changed without the Board being consulted.

- Membership: In addition to the heads of the main departments and of the Statistical Office, who are statutory members, the following members are appointed by the Governor-General:

- 3 representatives of the Chambers of Commerce
- 1 representative of the transport industry
- 1 representative of the banking institutions
- 2 representatives of the staff associations
- 2 representatives of the settlers' associations
- 2 representatives of the industrial concerns
- 1 representative of the tourist trade.

- Meetings: The Board meets once a year in plenary session. If and when necessary, the Board may hold a restricted meeting between two plenary missions. The members of the restricted committee are designated by the Governor-General.



SUMMARIES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICAL SURVEYS-  
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OR ORGANIZATION UNDER-  
TAKING THE SURVEY - FREQUENCY - FUTURE  
PROSPECTS.

Note: - Reference list: Document E/CN/14/4 Annex - A brief appraisal is made for each of the items listed in the above document.

A. - POPULATION

1. - Non-indigenous population

Surveys

Two sources have been used:

- Complete censuses of non-indigenous population undertaken by the Statistical Service.
- Population registers kept by the territorial or local administrative authorities.

Frequency

Censuses of non-indigenous population are undertaken every three years. A consolidated statistical table is prepared for inter-censal years on the basis of the population registers.

Complete censuses were carried out on the following dates:

- 28.2.1949
- 3.1.1952
- 3.1.1955
- 3.1.1958

Type of data

- (a) Complete censuses:

- (i) - Aggregates by sex and age groups; available
  - (ii) - Fertility nil
  - (iii) - Mortality "
  - (iv) - Migration "
  - (v) - Households available
- (b) Where data are obtained from population registers, only a summary by nationality and territory is prepared.

Future developments  
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A general census along the lines of those previously carried out will be undertaken in 1961.

2. Indigenous population  
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Surveys

Three sources have been used:

- Continuous card registration,
- Registers of births and deaths in indigenous districts and extra-tribal centres.
- The proportion of the population covered by civil registration regulations was 95.97% in 1958. There were 1,768 registration offices at the end of 1958. The long distances to be covered by persons wishing to report events are the main obstacle to efficient operation of the civil registration system.

(Average number of inhabitants for one registration office: 7,350)  
(Average area covered by each registration office 1,326 square kilometres).

- Population surveys. These were initiated in 1925, and were discontinued between 1940 and 1948. In 1953, a Demographic Office

was set up within the Service des Affaires Indigènes et sociales, which is mainly responsible for reorganizing population surveys along the following lines:

- (a) Substitution of a five-yearly survey, in which operations are spread over five years, for the annual survey;
- (b) Better selection of the sample resulting in substantial improvement of results through using appropriate mathematical methods;
- (c) Execution of surveys no longer by the Territorial Service, but by specialized teams originally controlled by the Service des Affaires Indigènes et Sociales, then by the Statistical Office.
- (d) Mechanical processing of data. As early as 1955, the Demographic Office initiated the first five-year survey, the Statistical Office cooperating in technical aspects and processing.

Frequency

- Card registration has been in use since 1933;
- Registers of births and deaths have been kept since 1942; in 1958, compulsory registration of births and deaths as well as that of marriages and divorces was extended to the whole of the Congo.
- Population surveys on the pattern initiated in 1955 recur every five years.

Type of data

- 1° - The 1955-57 population surveys provide statistics of the population distribution by:
  - Sex
  - Quinary age groups

- Ethnic groups
- Aggregates - rural areas
  - urban-rural areas
  - urban areas

For practical purposes, rural areas may be considered as subsistence areas.

2° - Fertility

Population surveys provide the following statistics:

- age-specific fertility rates
- number of children born to women in each age groups

3° - Mortality

From population surveys, statistics can be obtained on:

- deaths by age groups.

It has not yet been possible to determine the main causes of death.

4° - Migration

The only information collected so far relates to out-migration by territory, and length of absence (a) over one year and under five years, (b) under one year.

5° - The following information can be derived from population surveys:

- number of heads of households;
- number of monogamous and polygamous households.

Future Prospect

Participation in the 1960 World population census under the sponsorship of the United Nations has been decided.

B. Labour

1. Number of persons employed in principal industries and main sectors of agriculture.

A. Non-indigenous population  
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Surveys  
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1. Non-indigenous population censuses (see A-1 above)
2. Statistics provided by the "Colonial Pension and family benefit Fund" (CCPAF).

Frequency  
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1. Non-indigenous population censuses (see A-1 above)
2. CCPAF every year since 1949.

Type of data  
-----

1. Censuses:

- Following the censuses taken on 28.2.1949 and 3.1.1952, it was possible to distinguish broad categories of occupation.  
(Government employees, persons employed by private firms, settlers, missionaries, persons without gainful occupation).
- In addition to the broad occupational categories referred to above, the census taken on 3.1.1955 made it possible to obtain a break-down by occupation and industry for all categories other than Government employees and missionaries - following the classification recommended in doc. ST/SOA/Ser.A/9 published by the United Nations in February 1954.

- Census taken on 3.1.1958: In addition to the broad occupational categories already mentioned, a breakdown by economic activity was established on the basis of the International Standard Industrial Classification (I.S.I.C.) (excluding Government employees and missionaries).

2. CCPAF statistics: they only cover persons employed in the private sector. The break-down follows the I.S.I.C. classification.

#### Future Prospects

Census: See A-1

#### B. Indigenous population

##### Surveys and frequency

- Continuous card registration: see A-2 above
- Population surveys: see A-2 above

##### Type of data

With surveys based on card registration, it was possible to divide the labour force into the following broad categories:

Agriculture

Mining

Industries

Trade

Transport

Building

Clerical

Other

From 1959 onwards, occupations will no longer be card-recorded, as this information can be obtained from population surveys.

- Population surveys: they make it possible to classify persons employed at the time of the survey by main industry (9 headings as per I.S.I.C. classification).

#### Future Prospects

More frequent (quarterly) production of statistics on the basis of employers' returns to the Pension Fund is being considered.

#### 2. Wages and salaries classified as under section.

##### A. Non-indigenous population

##### Surveys

- No comprehensive survey has been carried out.
- Data concerning Government employees are collected through the mechanical tabulation of salaries carried out monthly by the Statistical Office;
- The main characteristics of industrial activity collected by the Statistical Office make it possible to produce these statistics for the "industrial" sector.

Frequency: every year.

Type of data: By collecting the main characteristics of

industrial production it is possible to establish a distinction based on the classification by industry referred to above; however no breakdown by salary brackets is shown.

- Statistics of the "Colonial Pension and Family Benefit Fund".

Frequency: every year  
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Types of data:  
-----

- Breakdown by income brackets of active members. (private sector);  
there is no breakdown by industry.

Future Prospects - Nil  
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#### B. Indigenous population

Surveys  
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- Complete censuses of the indigenous labour force.

Frequency: on 31.7.1950 and 31.12.1956  
-----

- Labour surveys covering establishments employing over 500 workers.

Frequency: quarterly since the end of 1952  
-----

- Indigenous government employees: see B 2A above, Government employees.

Type of data:  
-----

- No breakdown by industry has been contemplated for the above censuses or surveys.
- Half-yearly surveys are only used as a basis for computing the half-yearly labour cost index.

Future Prospects: Nil  
-----

#### 3. Estimated number of unemployed outside subsistence areas

Surveys  
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- population surveys;



- surveys through call-over of unemployed, organized by the Statistical Office in cooperation with city authorities (this method has been abandoned).
- processing by the Statistical Office of the index-card records of unemployed kept by city labour exchanges since the beginning of 1958.
- labour surveys organized by the Demographic Branch of the Statistical Office in several centres since May 1958.

Frequency: as required.  
-----

Type of data:  
-----

With the exception of population surveys for which there is a breakdown into rural, mixed and urban areas, statistical surveys are concerned with urban centres only.

#### 4. Survey of working population in subsistence areas

Surveys, Frequency; see Population surveys.  
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Type of data:  
-----

A distribution of the working population by rural, mixed and urban areas is shown.

Future Prospects: Nil  
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#### C. Agriculture

Surveys  
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No surveys have been carried out by the Statistical Office. The available statistics were compiled by the Agricultural Office on the basis of reports by provincial agronomists.

Frequency: every year.  
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Type of data:  
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Data mentioned under i,ii, vi and vii in the reference list are collected.

Future Prospects  
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In 1960, an agricultural census within the framework of the FAO programme will be organized in the Belgian Congo and in Ruanda-Urundi. The whole of the FAO programme will be carried out in respect of "European type" holdings. As regards traditional type holdings, however, operations will cover total area, area under different crops, agricultural population and livestock; yield surveys are contemplated for particular crops.

#### D. Forestry

Surveys: as under C  
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Frequency: as under C  
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Type of data:  
-----

The volume of production only is recorded.

Future Prospects: Nil  
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#### E. Fisheries

Surveys: as under C  
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Frequency: as under C  
-----

Type of data:  
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All data in the reference list are available for the major sea, river and lake fisheries.

Future Prospects: Nil  
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F. Industry

Survey  
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Main characteristics of industrial production.

Frequency: every year since 1955  
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Type of data:  
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- Data under i, ii and v in the reference list are derived directly from the survey, with the exception of power plants with a total capacity not exceeding 100 kilowatts (item ii).
- Data required under (iii) are supplied in terms of value, separately for the aggregate final products, raw materials, fuels and energy. A classification of final products in terms of quantity only is maintained along the lines of the external trade standard classification.
- Data required under (iv) are collected only in part self-formation or self-equipment).
- Collection of data under (vi) is not included in the survey.

Note: The Office has experienced considerable difficulties in collecting data to be supplied by industrial establishments on ad hoc questionnaires, and as a consequence, has not yet found it possible to obtain reliable results.

G. Transport

1. Water, rail and road transport

Surveys  
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The Office collects practically all the data listed under this heading as regards river, lake, rail and road transport connected with sea and inland ports.

Frequency:

Quarterly since the fourth quarter of 1955.

Type of data:  
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Coverage limited to major transport enterprises. Information concerning the length of roads classified by type is collected by the Public Works Department.

2. Air Transport

Surveys  
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No direct surveys are carried out by the Office. Information is collected by the Civil Aviation Department.

Frequency: every year.  
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Type of data:  
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The following data are available:

- Kilometres flown
- Flight hours
- Number of passengers carried
- Passenger-kilometres
- Seat-kilometres available
- Ton-kilometres performed (passengers)
- " (excess baggage)
- " (cargo)
- " (mail)
- " (parcel post)
- Ton-kilometres available
- Effective pay-load ratios
- Traffic at main airports (number of take-offs and landings)

Future Prospects  
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The preparation of quarterly statistics is under consideration on

the basis of recommendations by international organizations.

#### H. Education

##### Surveys:

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Statistics are produced by the Department of Education.

Frequency: every year

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Type of data:

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All data listed are available, except attendance by sex.

Future Prospects: Nil

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Note: Population surveys include controls on levels of education,  
literacy and proficiency in French.

#### I. Health Services

##### Surveys

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No surveys are carried out by the Service. Some statistical information is collected by the Medical service.

Frequency: every year

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Type of data

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Number of doctors, nurses, etc.; number of hospital beds; number of hospital admissions, etc. However, no breakdown by type of illness (except for main endemic diseases) or by age and sex of patients is provided.

Future prospects: Nil

#### J. External Trade

##### Surveys

-----  
Monthly statistics of Foreign Trade prepared by the Statistical Office on the basis of Customs documents.

Frequency: every month

Type of data

- Data listed under 1(i) and 2(i) are recorded.

- Index-numbers are computed for groups of commodities, imports being classified by destination and exports being classified by type.

# K. Money and Banking

## Surveys

Statistical research under this heading is made by the Banque Centrale du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi (Institut Officiel d'Emission).

### 1. Balance sheets for Central bank and deposit banks

Frequency: every year

Type of data:

Transactions are not distinguished by economic sectors.

### 2. Loans and advances made by purpose and industry.

Nil

### 3. Bank debits to deposit accounts

See K-1 above

### 4. Discount or rediscount rates

Frequency: recorded every month.

Type of data: is required

### 5. Exchange rates

Frequency: monthly, at a fixed date

6. Balance of payments classified according to types of transactions

Frequency: every year.  
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Type of data: as required  
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F. Indexes of sales prices received by domestic producers and importers.

Nil

Future Prospects: Nil  
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L. Government

Surveys  
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The Statistical Office is responsible for the processing of the  
Government transaction account.

Frequency: every month  
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Type of data  
-----

Data listed under i, iii and iv are collected.

Future Prospects  
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Economic classification of receipts and disbursements is  
contemplated.

M. Personal income and expenditure

Surveys  
-----

No comprehensive survey has been carried out.

1. Estimates of income distribution by size

- Government employees: see B.1 and 2 above;
- Persons employed in private enterprises: Statistics of the  
"Colonial Pension and Family Benefit Fund".

Frequency: every year  
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Type of data: Cover active members only.  
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2. Distribution of household expenditures: see 3 below (budget sample)

3. Index numbers of cost of living.

Surveys  
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The official cost of living index is computed by the Direction Générale des Affaires Economiques with the technical cooperation of the Statistical Office.

Frequency: Quarterly since 1st July 1944 (base year 1935)  
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- Budget sample (1st April 1956 to 31st March 1957). The sample covered 140 households of non-indigenous wage-earners, including 20 households in each provincial capital. Government and private enterprises were equally represented, and salary brackets and family structure criteria were applied.

4. Estimates of consumption in subsistence areas

- A few pilot-surveys were carried out by the Statistical Office.
- A survey was conducted by the Institute of Social Research in Central Africa (I.R.S.A.C.) in the Ruanda-Urundi. The results have not yet been published.

N. Housing:

Nil.