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Official Statistics Activity in Argentina  
November 1975 to November 1977

Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos  
[National Institute of Statistics and Censuses]

(INDEC)

Argentina

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REPORT PRESENTED TO THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COINS

Official Statistics Activity in Argentina

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I ORGANISATION OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICS SYSTEM (SEN)

1. A brief description of the SEN

Argentina's National Statistics System incorporates two basic types of statistics-gathering bodies:

- Statistics services dealing with general information, operated by the various levels of government (national, provincial, and municipal).
- Statistics services dealing with sectorial information, operated by the individual sectors concerned (education, health, etc).

The INDEC is responsible for coordinating these bodies, a task which was given great impetus in the early 1970s. The Institute's role is to:

- 1) Define the scope of the system and prepare a Roster of the bodies incorporated within it.
- 2) Develop a national programme for statistics.
- 3) Raise the training level of the System's personnel.

Because the SEN incorporates such a wide variety of statistics bodies, the task of coordinating them is a very difficult one. As a result, the first of the three objectives listed above has been accomplished through the annual up-dating of the Statistics Services Roster.

The survey of the services making up the SEN covers the following information: the name of the service, where it is located (its domicile), its parent body, the name and position of its head, the way in which it gathers and distributes information, the number of its employees, their level of education, the main resources at its disposal for carrying out its work, and so on.

At the beginning of the period, in November 1975, the INDEC published the Nómina de Servicios SEN y principales características 1970-73 [Roster of SEN Services and Basic Information on Each, 1970-73]. This publication contained the results of previous annual surveys.

In the survey work carried out in early 1976, the data collected referred to 31st December 1975. The results were published in the Nómina de Servicios SEN y principales características 1975 [Roster of SEN Services and Basic Information on Each, 1975].

In early 1977, the INDEC decided to return to a project it had begun some years earlier, in 1969-1970, entitled Series Originales del SEN [Original SEN Series]. To prompt faster replies from the services being surveyed and to obtain an adequate level of response, we decided to request not only data on the identity of the service, but also information on the censuses it had conducted and the publications it had issued during the period from 1st July 1969 to 31st December 1976.

The information we requested in regard to censuses included: the name of the census, the date on which it was

conducted, the period to which the data refer, the way in which the census was conducted, whether or not any preliminary or final results exist, and whether or not they have been published. The information we requested in regard to publications included: title, frequency of the publication, normal periodicity at present, and date of the most recent issue. The information has already been gathered up to 31st December 1977, and we expect to summarise and publish the results of the survey before the end of the year.

2. New laws, decrees, or regulations concerning the organisation and functions or activities of the statistics services
3. Important changes in the National Statistics System or in the individual services which it incorporates

The purpose of the national Ministry of Planning, according to Decree 1869/77, is "to deal with all State matters relating to planning, forecasting, and computing systems". The creation of this Ministry by Law 21431 (and the Planning Secretariats which perform much the same functions at the provincial and municipal levels) has not yet had a major impact on the formalisation of interministerial relations involving statistics beyond an investment in data processing equipment and the management of international assistance programmes.

At the provincial level, many provinces have changed their organisational plans so as to bring their Directorates of Statistics under their Ministeries of Planning.

4. Available personnel, new staffing measures, and major needs in the area of personnel development

Although the INDEC's authorised number of permanent staff is slightly over 1000 (excluding survey-takers, who are classed as temporary staff), the last eighteen months have seen the actual number reduced by about 40%, with serious losses at the intermediate technical and administrative levels, and thus a serious deterioration in the agency's operating base.

This problem is common to the other statistics services at the provincial and municipal levels, as well as at the national level.

5. Activities aimed at upgrading the professional qualifications of present personnel

During the past two years, courses and seminars have been of little relevance in training personnel.

The INDEC has sent members of its permanent staff to Cambridge University for one year, to work on the application of the Socio-demographic Enumeration System; to the seminar on agricultural statistics held at the Centro Interamericano de Enseñanza de Estadística [Inter-American Statistics Training Centre] (CIENS) in July 1977; and to the course given in Costa Rica in 1976 by the Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía [Latin American Demography Centre] (CELADE).

Some other statistical services have received assistance in training personnel, both in Argentina and abroad, from various agencies of the United Nations (UNESCO and CELADE) and the Organisation of American States (the Pan-American Health Office and the Inter-American Children's Institute), from the International Development Bank, and other organisations.

#### 6. Budget resources

It is difficult to determine the total budget resources for all the statistics services during the 1976 and 1977 fiscal years, since many of their budgets are incorporated into those of the ministries or agencies of which they are part. As a result, we are only able to give the totals for the INDEC and for the provincial Directorates of Statistics. Together, they spent some 1 201 203 681 pesos (roughly 4 800 000 dollars) in 1976. The INDEC's budget rose to 849 437 019 pesos (roughly 3 400 000 dollars) in 1976 and 1 039 632 828 pesos (roughly 3 300 000 dollars) in 1977. The budget for these two years may be broken down as follows:

	1977	1976
Wages and salaries	55.7%	49.0%
Operating expenses	41.7%	49.1%
Investments	2.6%	1.9%

## II NATIONAL STATISTICS PRODUCTION

### 1. New research work planned or under way

#### a) Censuses

In the INDEC:

NATIONAL ECONOMIC CENSUS, 1974

In 1976 and 1977, the INDEC completed its series of provincial statistics with volumes containing preliminary results processed by the Institute.

Final processing of the information is now under way, and it is expected that the results for the industrial sector will be available from the first few provinces in the near future. As for the business sector, the data are now being collected and analysed and we expect publication of the preliminary results to begin shortly.

This operation marked the first time that the tasks of form analysis, input, and tabulation were decentralised. Our experience in this area has been valuable and has led us to the following conclusions:

a) Only about half the provinces have been able to accomplish the task. In part, this is due to the fact that they must rent the services of computing equipment they do not own and must therefore compete for computer time with high-priority operations such as payroll processing, tax collection and fiscal operations.

b) The instructions issued by the INDEC have not always been carried out faithfully. Because of this, some steps have had to be repeated, with the attendant delays.

Present legislation calls for a new economic census to be conducted in 1979. Preliminary work in this regard will get under way in 1978.

#### THE NATIONAL RECORDS SYSTEM (SNR)

The starting point for this programme is information from the 1974 survey of businesses.

The INDEC was led to implement the National Records System (SNR) by the need for a basic solution to the problem of the lack of a complete and continuously up-dated list of the economic units operating within the country.

The main features of the SNR are as follows:

- a) The starting point for the system was the National Economic Census in 1974.
- b) The basic information collected by the SNR is uniform throughout the country, as are the material and procedures used.
- c) Data are not gathered centrally, but at the provincial level.



- d) There is a central office (the INDEC) responsible for managing the system, standardising procedures, and collating the national Register by computer.
- e) The central office provides the provinces periodically with up-dated lists.
- f) Each unit is identified by its own statistics registration number. This number may not be duplicated and its structure is the same throughout the country.

The SNR is endeavouring to harmonise and coordinate the activities of many different public bodies. Three levels of public statistics bodies are taking part in this effort, each of which has its own distinct role and complements the activities of the other two.

- a) Municipal agencies and in some cases provincial ones, called SNR Offices: In accordance with the laws, decrees, or directives governing their operation, one of their continuing functions is to keep registers of the establishments located within their jurisdictions.

The role of SNR Offices within the system is to report regularly any increases, decreases, or changes that occur within their respective jurisdictions.

- b) The provincial Directorates of Statistics (or their equivalent): The Directorates are responsible for continuously updating their information on the establishments located within their respective political

jurisdictions on the basis of the data they receive from SNR Offices.

- c) The INDEC: The Institute processes the information it receives from the provincial Directorates of Statistics so as to update its records on all the establishments in the country. This it does on a continuing basis.

Information entering the system is initially gathered by means of a standardised form used by all the SNR Offices. The reason why such a form is used is that if each SNR Office were acting independently, the data collected would be incompatible between offices and could occasionally be incomplete. The SNR forms are completed by the chiefs of the SNR Offices on a high-priority basis.

The data gathered through the SNR form relate exclusively to variables of description and location that will permit any changes in the economic units taking place during an interval to be noted and entered in the files. It includes the following data: its name, its location, the activity in which the establishment is engaged, the legal name of its parent company, and the location of its headquarters.

With regard to the operations of the National Records System, it should be noted that following the October 1974 Census and until November 1975, SNR activities were largely concentrated on:

- Efforts to incorporate into the System all the agencies that should be brought under it.
- Training courses dealing with the methodology on which the System is based.
- Reformulating and modifying methodological standards.

Our efforts during this first stage, then, have centred on the implementation of the programme.

Continuous progress has been made since 1976 in gathering information throughout the country, with the statistics agencies of 21 of the 24 largest political jurisdictions (the provinces and the Municipality of the City of Buenos Aires) being incorporated into the System.

The following table shows the number of SNR Offices in operation and their relative importance in terms of the economic activity in their respective jurisdictions.

Operation of SNR Offices  
as of 30th June 1977

	SNR Offices			Percentages		
	Total	In operation	Not in operation	Total	In operation	Not in operation
Centralising 80% of the economic activity surveyed	311	250	61	100	80	20
Centralising the remaining 20%	1295	441	854	100	34	66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1606</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>57</b>

As for the volume of information handled since the System was set up in each political jurisdiction, it should be noted that over 135 000 SNR forms had been processed as of 30th June 1977.

Programmes are now being drawn up to ensure consistency in processing the information, to update the records, and to print the updated lists.

It is worth noting that nine provincial Directorates of Statistics have finished the first updating of the census register, four of them up to 31st December 1975 and the other five to 31st December 1976. Another six

provinces are in a position to complete the first updating of their census registers within a few months.

#### THE NATIONAL POPULATION, FAMILY, AND HOUSING CENSUS, 1970

The processing of this census has experienced its ups and downs, with the result that by June 1976, nearly six years after the census was taken, only a very small proportion of the data had been coded and entered.

Recently, we have been able to return to this work and it is now progressing quickly: it is expected that all the material will have been processed and published by the end of 1979.

In preparation for the 1980 Population Census, we expect to carry out pilot tests in areas of particular interest in 1978.

#### NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CENSUS, 1969

The printing of the tabulated results concerning the characteristics of agricultural enterprises, land ownership, and land use is in the final phase.

#### ELSEWHERE IN THE NATIONAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

During 1977, the National Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock planned and conducted a livestock census to update data on the number of livestock in the country. The census was taken in July and August

in the provinces north of the Colorado River and will be completed in March 1978 in the Patagonian provinces.

The General Secretariat of the Office of the President has conducted a census of public employees during the current year. This census has already been taken at the national level, and the first tabulated results are now available. At the provincial level, this census is just now getting under way.

Within the Ministry of Public Health, plans are being made to prepare a Roster of Health Resources.

b) Sampling surveys

The sampling surveys being carried out by the INDEC are: the Ongoing Survey of Households; the price surveys on which the Consumer Price Index, Wholesale Price Index and Construction Cost Index are based; the Corporation Survey; and the Industrial Survey.

Each of these surveys is discussed below in some detail.

**THE ONGOING SURVEY OF HOUSEHOLDS**

Eventually, this programme is intended to cover the entire population of Argentina, including both urban

and rural households, but in view of the need to set priorities, the INDEC has decided that a study of the urban reality is more urgently required. At the present time, the Ongoing Survey of Households is gathering data on the social characteristics of the population residing in about fifteen of the nation's largest urban areas, where permanent labour markets may be supposed to exist.

It is worthwhile here to note the priorities followed in selecting the urban centres covered by this survey:

First priority: Urban centres with a population of over 300 000 inhabitants, according to the 1970 National Population Census.

Second priority: Urban centres with a population of fewer than 300 000 but more than 100 000 inhabitants.

Third priority: Urban centres which have a population of fewer than 100 000 inhabitants, but are major centres in their respective provinces, provided that the provincial Directorates of Statistics (or other agencies concerned) have the necessary basic infrastructure and/or prior experience in taking similar types of surveys, such as the Survey on Employment and Unemployment.

As indicated above, these criteria were applied to all urban centres having permanent labour markets.

Consequently, those centres whose labour markets were

not permanent or exhibited significant seasonal variations were excluded. By their very nature, such centres need to be considered individually, and so they were given a lower level of priority under the programme.

At present, the programme's efforts are being directed toward bringing cities with a population of 100 000 inhabitants or more into the Survey.

As for extending the Survey into non-urban areas in the future, the INDEC has been carrying out a study since March 1976 aimed at establishing the most appropriate research and measurement methods for compiling information on the occupational reality in rural areas. This study, which has been carried out as a sub-programme within the Ongoing Survey of Households, uses the same variables used in the urban survey, or variables that are equivalent to them. In September 1977, the first data were collected for a survey of homes by means of regional sampling. Basically, this will permit us to begin determining and measuring the situation of various non-classifiable occupations in a very special configuration in a rural-urban zone. The area in question is the Upper Valley of the Negro River, which has clearly defined geographical boundaries and whose main productive activity (the cultivation of fruit and vegetables) is a typically primary and seasonal one.



As an integral part of the sampling design, studies are being carried out to improve the quality of the information gathered in the Ongoing Survey of Households, and to reduce the bias. These studies are:

- a) A random inspection of the initial lists from which the sample of households is extracted, with the establishment of a maximum error value (households omitted and non-existent households) which, if exceeded, would require new lists to be made.
- b) After the programme has been under way in a given city for two consecutive years, the initial lists are updated. A random sample is also used in selecting the zones to be inspected.
- c) In each field survey, a control of the "no response" is kept by means of a question included in the form. By studying this, possible ways to reduce the "no response" may be devised and this information may be included in calculating the estimator.

With regard to the urban centres already included in the research work (these centres are listed in the table below), we plan in the near future to introduce a surveying system that will be continuous in nature and thus replace the present system, which only permits observations to be made at specific points in time.

	Date of Introduction	Information available each year after intro- duction of the system
1. The Federal Capital and parts of Greater Buenos Aires	October 1972	April-July and October
2. Gran Rosario	April 1974	April and October
3. Cordoba	April 1974	April and October
4. Greater Mendoza	April 1974	April and October
5. Greater La Plata	April 1974	April and October
6. Tucuman	April 1974	April and October
7. Bahía Blanca	April 1974	April and October
8. Comodora Rivadavia	April 1974	April and October
9. Posadas	April 1974	April and October
10. Santa Fe	October 1974	April and October
11. Corrientes	October 1974	April and October
12. Parana	October 1974	April and October
13. Resistencia	October 1974	April and October
14. Concordia	April 1975	April and October
15. Formosa	October 1975	April and October
16. Gualaguaychu	October 1975	April and October
17. Neuquen	April 1976	April and October
18. S. del Estero	October 1976	April and October
19. San Juan	October 1977	
20. S.S. de Jujuy	October 1977	

## THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The work of revising the Consumer Price Index began in October 1970, when the Survey of Expenditures on Goods and Services was begun; this survey continued until September 1971. The data from this survey provided an estimate of the breakdown of expenditures, which was used in weighting the index.

In 1974, data were collected on the prices for the group of goods and services chosen. That year's prices were taken as a base for the new Consumer Price Index series.

The work was published in April 1977, when the new series became official under the title Índice de Precios al Consumidor (base 1974 = 100), Informe metodológico [Consumer Price Index (base 1974 = 100), Report on the Methodology].

Description of the work: The aim of the programme begun in 1970 was to revise and improve the Consumer Price Index by establishing better control of sampling errors and significantly reducing such errors.

The steps in this programme were as follows:

- 1) Estimation of the breakdown of expenditures using the Survey of Expenditures on Goods and Services.

- 2) Selection of the group of goods and services whose prices would be observed.
- 3) Design of the price-gathering survey.
- 4) Type of estimate used.

(1) Survey of Expenditures on Goods and Services.

The reference population was considerably broadened in comparison with previous series for the Consumer Price Index.

The following criteria were set for the selection of the homes to be included in the survey:

- a) The head of the household had to be a wage- or salary-earner employed in industry and/or business.
- b) The household had to be located in the Greater Buenos Aires area.
- c) The household had to have from two to seven members. Thus, households consisting of only one person or more than seven were excluded.
- d) The composition of the family had to lie in one of the following categories: a married couple without children, a married couple with children, a married couple with children and collaterals, a married couple with collaterals, father or mother with children, and father with children and collaterals.

e) The household income had to lie within the following limits: where the head of the household was a blue-collar worker, a monthly income of \$250 (minimum) to \$1 500 (maximum); where the head of the household was a white-collar worker, a monthly income of \$300 (minimum) to \$2 500 (maximum).

The households were selected by a two-stage process, with a uniform rate of sampling maintained throughout. The data were collected by means of direct interviews.

When the information was obtained, it was checked against the household budget to determine its acceptability. Disparities in the area of 30% in absolute terms was considered acceptable; for values exceeding this amount, the per capita consumption was studied. In processing the data, the validity of the codes for qualitative variables was studied and, in the case of the expenditure variable, measurements were obtained showing the breakdown of prices so as to establish extreme values that would reveal errors in coding or key-punching.

To analyse the presence of biases in the sample, the initial panel was studied against the final panel by

means of an association test. The result did not indicate any need to the correct weighting of the variables under study.

(2) Selection of the group of goods and services.

The goods and services that the families reported were generally coded using the classification system proposed by the United Nations for household consumption within the National Accounting System. Thus, the goods and services were stratified into chapters, groups, and sub-groups to establish the sampling framework for selecting the sample.

In all, 323 goods and services were chosen with each stratum represented. In draughting the specifications, an attempt was made to develop those of an intermediate type which would permit the most relevant characteristics of the goods and services to be described; thus, in the final stage, the significance and representativity of the specification chosen could be considered. A single set of weighting coefficients was obtained using as the basic variable the mean portion of the expenditure corresponding to all goods and services over the twelve-month period of the survey. Using a criterion of proportionality, the value corresponding to

the group of goods and services not selected was attributed to the value of this basic variable.

(3) Design of the survey for collecting prices.

The parameter to be estimated in these surveys is the price relative corresponding to the set of goods and services selected.

The goods and services selected were broken down into four non-exclusive sets, according to the results obtained from the Survey of Places of Purchase, carried out using the households reporting in the last three-month period of the Survey of Expenditures on Goods and Services.

The following surveys were thus defined according to the sampling units that had to be selected:

- a) Private transactions taking place near the family home.
- b) Private transactions taking place at organised fairs and markets, in supermarkets, and in self-serve stores.
- c) Private transactions taking place in shopping centres.
- d) A survey considering special sampling units.

In determining the size of the sample and the number of monthly visits, the following variables were taken into consideration: an analysis of the results of the Survey of Places of Purchase, the degree of dispersion of the prices, and the total cost of the operation in terms of the number of persons involved, the duration of the interview, the distance between the information units.

The prices were obtained through direct interviewing of the information units selected, using questionnaires in which the specifications for each of the goods and services were set out. The prices considered are those for the purchase of one unit, in cash, without including discounts for special categories of consumers or additional charges for installation, credit, etc.

(4) Type of estimate used.

The formula used corresponds to a weighted average of price relatives linked together so as to provide greater flexibility in handling changes in specifications and/or transactions and/or internal weighting coefficients.

To ensure insofar as possible that only changes in prices are reflected in the price relative for a



given good or service, the total transactions for which the price of the goods or service in the month in question is comparable with the price in the previous month is considered in calculating the price relative.

The temporary appearance or disappearance of a good or service is revealed by a study of the percentage of information units from which prices for the good or service could be obtained. A value of 30% to 40% is considered adequate for taking the appropriate action.

#### THE WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX

Work is continuing on the compilation of series on the Wholesale Price Index (base 1960 = 100), Basic Industrial Wages as indicated in labour agreements, and total sales in retail commercial establishments in Greater Buenos Aires.

Studies have been started with a view to restructuring the Wholesale Price Index series. The results of the final data from the 1974 Census of Industry, which are still being prepared, will be used as a weighting element.

#### INDEX OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL

The monthly updating of this index (base 1960 = 100) is being continued, and the results are published regularly within a few days of the end of the month to which the information applies.

The INDEC has a New Index of Construction Costs in the Federal Capital in preparation.

For the period taken as a reference period, the modal housing unit in the Federal Capital was found to be an eight-storey building containing 34 apartments of two, three, and four rooms each. The calculation of the building's dimensions and other elements needed to prepare a budget for the construction of such an apartment building have been completed.

Work is now under way to gather prices so that the calculations necessary for developing this index may be carried out. It is hoped that the index will gain official status in the near future.

Other indicators now in preparation which relate to the construction sector are the indices of construction costs for rigid and flexible pavement.

These new series, undertaken by the INDEC in consultation with the National Highways Directorate, have now

reached the cost determination stage.

In an effort to meet the needs of the Interprovincial Council of Ministers of Public Works (CIMOP), the INDEC has signed an agreement with the Council under which average prices are provided for given elements of construction in the Federal Capital and Greater Buenos Aires. These average prices will be used by the provinces in their dealings with contractors.

#### LIMITED COMPANIES

The census of limited companies registered with the Directorates of Legal Persons [Corporations] in the capital and the provinces, which was prepared using data from the fiscal years ending in 1972 and 1973, is now in the final stage of processing. The aims of the census were to determine the universe and to obtain the financial accounts and indicators by sector of activity.

The results obtained will serve as a basis for the design of a sample whose purpose will be to obtain periodic economic and financial indicators for this type of company.

#### INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY INDICATORS

In 1969, the INDEC undertook to obtain representative

indices of the manufacturing industry for the purpose of filling an information vacuum in the area of industrial statistics. These indices were to be capable of showing up the relevant characteristics of this sector of economic activity through time.

The series were based on 1970 data and have been updated to the second quarter of 1976; they are as follows:

- Index of the physical volume of production.
- Index of workers employed.
- Index of man-hours worked.
- Index of the average basic hourly wage.

The sample of individuals reporting was selected essentially on the basis of the list provided by the National Economic Census of 1963, to which have been added new manufacturing plants detected by means of the:

- 1) Permanent national register of industrial activities.
- 2) Survey of industrial forecasts.
- 3) Survey of urban areas.

At present, work is under way on a new design based on the results of the Economic Census of 1974.

In addition to the industrial indicators mentioned, the INDEC compiles the most important data for some branches of industry and some industrial products.

This information consists of 32 series; data for the universe of the sectors chosen have been collected in the areas of employment, hours worked, wages and salaries paid, the physical volume and value of production, and rates of absenteeism.

The data are gathered on a monthly basis and are continuously updated.

#### SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL FORECASTS

The basic aim of this survey is to analyse short-term perspectives for the evolution of the nation's manufacturing industry.

The survey includes the following variables:

- Value of production at current prices.
- Value of production at constant prices.
- Utilisation of productive capacity.
- Number of employees.
- Hours worked, hours paid, bonuses, wages, and salaries.
- Price variations.
- Raw materials.
- Inventories.
- Investments.
- Investment decisions.
- Difficulties in expanding production.

- Research and development expenditure.

As a general rule, this survey is repeated every three months. The last series of data was collected in October 1977.

(c) Series based on administrative records

FOREIGN TRADE

The INDEC has been continuously updating the series on the nation's foreign trade.

In turn, a new series on the price index, the value, and the physical volume of imports and exports has been built up so that statistics on foreign trade may once again be calculated. The preparation of these statistics was interrupted in 1965 when the statistical nomenclature used for compiling the data was modified.

During this period, a series on the value of imports FOB (free on board) was begun. This in turn has enabled us to determine the total freight and insurance charges included in the value CIF (cost, insurance, and freight) on which import statistics have traditionally been based.

We are also continuing the preparation of data on trade with member countries of the Latin American Free Trade Association, in accordance with the Association's recommendations.

#### TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

The INDEC is continuing to publish periodically its statistics on sea and air navigation.

In 1977, at the request of the Inter-American Statistics Institute (IASI), the INDEC draughted a methodology for gathering and processing railway statistics throughout the continent. This was done with the valuable cooperation of the Latin American Railway Association (ALAF) and the Pan-American Railway Congress, both headquartered in Buenos Aires, and Argentinian National Railways.

#### ELSEWHERE IN THE NATIONAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

Vital statistics and health statistics have gone through a critical period since 1973. In Argentina, it is the Ministry of Public Health that is responsible for keeping these statistical data. Efforts are now under way to re-establish the system that was in operation until 1973, whereby the collection, compilation, and analysis of statistics at the provincial level were provincial responsibilities (using registry office records), while the calculation of national totals was the responsibility of the Ministry.

(d) Derived statistics

With regard to its series entitled Investigaciones Demográficas [Demographic Research], the INDEC's demography department has continued with the publication of Vol 5, entitled La Migración en la Argentina 1960/70 [Population Movements in Argentina, 1960-1970]. In addition, it is now preparing monographs on the evolution and populational status of three provinces and has prepared estimates of the population by province and by sex and age, as well as estimates of the economically active population. It is also extracting material which is relevant to the research, such as tabulated data collected in the Fourth Population Census, 1947, which have not as yet been published.

With regard to continuing series, the department is pursuing its task of analysing the vital statistics information gathered and processed by the Ministry of Social Welfare through its Public Health Branch.

Also on the basis of administrative records, monthly figures are obtained in connexion with the number of building permits issued, the surface area to be covered by each building, and the purpose of each building. These data are collected for the Federal Capital, all parts of the Province of Buenos Aires, and 91 municipalities



elsewhere in the country.

2. Measures taken or proposed to upgrade the quality of data

The INDEC's main efforts to upgrade the quality of the information have been directed towards:

- Suitable training for survey personnel.
- The rigorous supervision of work in the field.
- Staffing.
- Control of the "no response" factor in surveys.
- The adoption of methods for controlling consistency and automatic correction in the computer processing of information.

There are two means whereby the information is disseminated: public seminars and publications.

As regards the first means of dissemination, improvements are being made in the service to meet the requirements of the indexing policy applied to economic matters, as these requirements have grown significantly.

The INDEC's publications are printed in its own print-shops, where work is in progress to expand and modernise the machinery.

Consumer Price Index (base 1960 = 100), 1966-1970	November 1976	1 000
Consumer Price Index (base 1960 = 100), 1971-1975	November 1976	1 000

## 2. Current publications in preparation

T i t l e	Period	Number of copies Published
Quarterly Statistics Bulletin	July-September 1977	2 000
Foreign Trade Report (4 volumes)	1976	1 700
Population of the Province of San Juan		1 000
Survey of Family Budgets	1969-1970	1 500
Ongoing Survey of Households	1974	1 500
Evaluation of Incomes		1 000
Annual Report on Tierra del Fuego	1972-1976	300
National Statistics System: List of Services, Censuses, and Publications Completed	--	750
Latin American Free Trade Association	1976	2 000
Commercial Shipping	1975	1 700

## IV TECHNICAL COOPERATION

### 1. Direct foreign technical assistance received (ie experts) and source of assistance

During the past two years, the only assistance the INDEC has received has come from the regional experts of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) in sampling. It is hoped that a short mission by the Latin-American Demography Centre (CELADE) may be arranged in the near future to assist in the processing of data.

2. Other foreign assistance received

No other forms of foreign assistance have been received.

3. Direct technical assistance required

As we prepare for the 1960 Census, our assistance requirements will be defined with a suitable degree of precision. There can be no doubt, however, that in view of the staff reduction mentioned above, we shall have to lay plans for training and retraining. As a result, we shall require outside assistance in several fields.

4. Training needs - SEN personnel

The USCC is most interested in becoming involved in any existing programmes organized in South America in connection with agrarian census activity. In the early 1950s, such programmes will be very useful in training the staff members of the National Statistics System assigned to the 1960 Census.