Introduction

The secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is pleased to present the thirty-second issue of the Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region for 2012.

This Abstract presents time series statistics and indicators on economic and social issues in all fourteen ESCWA member countries.

The Abstract is divided into twelve chapters, on the following topics: population, labour force; education and illiteracy; health; gender equality; national accounts; energy; industry; transport; foreign trade; financial statistics and prices; and information and communications technology.

Data contained in the Abstract were obtained mainly from national statistical sources in the ESCWA region, either through responses to ESCWA questionnaires or from statistical abstracts and bulletins issued by official authorities in member countries. The Abstract also relies on data issued by international organizations and agencies, giving priority to United Nations sources.