

الأمم المتحدة
اللجنة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغربي آسيا

United Nations
Economic and Social Commission
for Western Asia



Nations Unies
Commission économique et sociale
pour l'Asie occidentale

Regional Workshop on the Exchange of Experiences on the Collection and Dissemination of Road and Railway Transport Statistics:

Statistics on The Volume of Road Traffic (Vehicle-Kilometer)

8- 10 December 2020

Concept and Information Note

1- Introduction:

Within the framework sought by ESCWA to improve the production and dissemination of high quality social and economic statistics in the Arab region, and to provide the necessary support to the Arab countries to promote their national statistical systems and meet the requirements for the implementation of Agenda 2030, ESCWA is targeting to identify and streamline the methodologies adopted by its member countries in their production of the statistics on the volume of road traffic, while ensuring that these methodologies align with international standards and methodologies. This also comes in follow up to the recommendations of both the Statistics Committee of ESCWA at its thirteenth session, (January 2019), and the Regional Workshop on The Development of Transport Statistics and Transport Related Sustainable Development Indicators in the Arab Countries (September 2019), which requested the ESCWA secretariat to focus on new statistical priority sectors of the member states, including transportation, and to focus on methodological issues relating to road statistics respectively.

There is high need for statistical information monitoring the trends in the volume of road traffic, which provide the proper statistics for evidence-based policies and planning in the Arab countries at the national levels while being aligned with international standards. There is increased demand for reliable statistics on the volume of traffic performed by road vehicles by member countries, which is used, in addition to policy making at national and international level, in infrastructure management and planning; traffic and transport management; spatial planning; road safety; and environmental issues among others.

Additionally, the world has witnessed lately the COVID 19 pandemic and many Arab countries suffer additionally from crisis and conflict. As such it becomes also important to identify

the best practices adopted in member countries and worldwide to account for the volume of road traffic in such times. Novel means and methods to estimate the volume of traffic statistics properly helps the countries which are conflict-stricken and suffer from the pandemic as well to help better rebuild their destroyed roads, infrastructure and urban planning in urban and rural areas, which promote accessibility..

Different methodologies are used to compile statistics on the volume of road traffic, depending on availability of data. As such it becomes important to identify the various methods and methodologies used in ESCWA member countries to be able to highlight best practices, and improve the methodologies used, to ensure that they align with international standards and methods, and to be abreast as well of new methods and technological means that can be employed especially in times of pandemic, conflict and crisis.

2- The Regional Workshop on the Exchange of Experiences on the Collection and Dissemination of Road and Railway Transport Statistics: Statistics on the Volume of Road Traffic (Vehicle-Kilometer):

To fulfill this objective, ESCWA is planning to hold a Regional Workshop on Statistics on the Volume of Road Traffic (Vehicle-Kilometer) to identify best practices at the national and international levels. The aim of the workshop is primarily to examine the methods and the calculation methods applied in the various member countries, assess the capacity building needs for the improvement of the calculation methods, address the issue of the statistical coverage and availability of data of road traffic measured in vehicle-kilometers, transport policy; fuel consumption; pollution; spatial planning; planning of public transport; planning of intermodal transport; taxation; road safety; and international comparisons, in addition to novel methods and means to estimate the volume of road traffic especially in times of the COVID 19 pandemic and in times of conflict and crisis.

3- The Preparatory Process for the Regional Workshop and the proposal to draft a Regional Guideline on Statistics on the Volume of Road Traffic

The process to be led by ESCWA will include requesting member countries to consider the plausibility of drafting a regional guideline on best practices in the region based on national papers/experiences and aligned with international standards and methods. It is aspired that the guideline will address data collection methods adopted by member countries as well as how these countries resolve the challenges they meet, such as , how they resolve the issue of the scope of coverage between foreign and inland traffic; data collection in times of a pandemic and how to account for missing data, as well as data collection methods used in countries facing crisis and civil unrest, among others. New data sources relying on new technologies will also be addressed. The guideline is also aspired to include a chapter on main definitions used to harmonize their use among member states, and a set of recommendations, based on the country national studies and international recommendations thereof.

Interested National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the member countries are invited to communicate their interest to take part in full or partially in the process including the preparation of the guideline as soon as possible and not later than September 20, 2020, by:

- Sharing and communicating their comments, opinion, insights and feedback on the process of preparing the guideline and later assigning the themes it should include;
- Participate in the virtual **Preparatory Meeting** that is planned to be held on 29 September 2020. Participants in the preparatory meeting are to consist preferably of 6 participants representing the Gulf countries, Arab Mashreq countries, Arab Maghreb countries, least developing countries and countries undergoing conflict and/or occupation;
- Participate in the Regional Workshop, to be convened during 8-10 December 2020. The Regional Workshop was planned initially to be held in person, but due to COVID 19 pandemic and the sad events in The Lebanon, it will be held virtually;
- Commit to provide by October 30, 2020 a national paper addressing their national experience

3-a. Preparatory Meeting (29 September 2020)

The September preparatory meeting will be to agree on the Agenda of the Regional Workshop, distribute roles and responsibilities in the production of the Guideline, agree on the chapters to include in the national papers and the guideline; agree on the modalities of the work to be done with the possibility of establishing a taskforce for follow up; identify and nominate focal points for the production of the guideline’s chapters. The results of the September 2020 preparatory meeting will be presented to the Regional Workshop for adoption.

3-b. National papers:

A summary of the National Papers will be presented to the December Regional Workshop. Preferably, National Papers prepared and submitted by interested member countries’ NSOs, are to address the following themes and cover the following annotations:

0. Executive summary
1. introduction and scope of the national paper
2. Users’ needs: (who uses the statistics and what type of data is provided, and for what purposes) :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Common Transport Policy b. National transport policies c. Road safety d. Infrastructure management e. Environmental policies f. other

3. Data collection methods: Assign and expand on the method used and why it is used and using what data. Also explain the methodology adopted and calculation used as per either one of the listed below methods:

a. Odometer readings (inspection of vehicles)

- General description of methodology
- Data sources
- Coverage
 - National vehicles
 - Traffic abroad included/not included
 - Off road traffic included/not included
- Needs for supplementary statistics
- Frequency of readings and related biases
- Measurement errors

b. Household surveys and/or Censuses

- General description of methodology
- Data sources
- Coverage
 - National vehicles
- Needs for supplementary statistics
- Recall effects
- Sampling and sample errors
- Other errors

c. Traffic counts

- General description of methodologies
- Data sources
- Coverage
 - National vehicles
 - Foreign vehicles
 - Manual counts of nationality etc.
- Sampling and sample errors
- Other errors

d. Derived from fuel consumption

- General description of methodology
- Data sources
- Coverage
 - Cross-border trade
 - Off-road consumption
 - Manual counts of nationality etc.
- Needs for supplementary statistics
- Error sources

e. Border surveys

f. Derived or complemented from other novel data sources and methods: big data, satellite imaging, GIS, sensors, etc..
4. Inland and foreign traffic: (how the issue is resolved and accounted for).
5. Methodologies adopted in times of pandemic and/or crisis.
6. Relevant definitions (adopted nationally and how they align with international ones) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Infrastructure b. Vehicles c. Traffic volumes d. Road traffic fatalities e. Fuel consumption f. Others
7. Capacity building needs and recommendations

The Regional Workshop will provide an opportunity for participating countries' NSOs to present their experiences on the topics and themes mentioned in point 3-b if they so wish. The representatives of these States will inform the organizers of the workshop of their desire to present their countries experiences according to the topics listed as soon as possible and to provide the secretariat of the workshop with the working papers, presentations or summaries of their interventions one month in advance of the date of the workshop and preferably before 15 November in order to organize and manage the working sessions.

4-Participation in the Regional Workshop:

Participants to the Workshop will comprise mainly government experts from the national statistical offices of all Arab countries, and preferably involved in the production and dissemination of the volume of traffic statistics. Participants from ministries of transport and relevant national bodies may also participate in the workshop provided they are nominated by their respective NSO. Experts from regional and international organizations will also be participating in the workshop.

5- Language:

Arabic and English languages are used during the Regional Workshop (8-10 December 2020), with simultaneous interpretation available.

Arabic language will be used in the Preparatory Meeting (29 Sept 2020).

National papers are to be prepared preferably in the Arabic language with the objective of clarifying the glossary of terms and agreeing on them during the regional workshop. English language is a second option.

6- Time and venue:

The Workshop will be held virtually from 8-10 December.

7- Administrative arrangements:

It is important to confirm participation in the process and provide the requested information about participation before September 15. Participants are to fill the registration form annexed to this document indicating the activities they wish to participate in. For more information on logistical, administrative and technical matters, there will be a meeting page on the website of UN ESCWA. For further information the following staff may be contacted:

For logistics and administrative	For substantive
Mr. Wassim Hammoud Assistant Statistician Tel: +961 1 978 349 Fax : +961 1 981 510 Email : hammoudw@un.org Web : www.unescwa.org	Ms. Naela Haddad Statistician Tel: +961 1 978 460 Fax : +961 1 981 510 Email : haddad8@un.org Web : www.unescwa.org

REGISTRATION FORM

1. Participant

Mr. Family Name _____ First Name _____

Mrs. _____

Ms.

2. Sex: Male Female

3. Title of present official position

4. Organization represented

5. Mailing Address (Office)

Telephone No: Telephone extension

Fax No.....

E-mail address:..... Skype address:

6. Participating In:

<u>Yes/No</u> <u>(X)</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Deadline of</u> <u>expression of</u> <u>interest</u>	<u>Deadline for</u> <u>submission of</u> <u>National paper</u> <u>& expression of</u> <u>interest to give a</u> <u>presentation At</u> <u>Regional</u> <u>Workshop</u>	<u>Deadline for</u> <u>submission of</u> <u>presentation at</u> <u>Regional</u> <u>Workshop</u>
	Preparatory Meeting	29 September 2020	15 September 2020		
	National Paper	30 October 2020	15 September 2020	30 October 2020	

	<u>Presentation at regional workshop</u>	<u>8-10 December 2020</u>		<u>30 October 2020</u>	<u>15 November 2020</u>
	<u>Regional workshop</u>	<u>8-10 December 2020</u>	<u>15 September 2020 and not later than 30 October 2020</u>		