

**STATISTICAL  
POCKETBOOK  
of the  
OIC COUNTRIES  
1998**

**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH  
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES**

**ORGANISATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE**

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## FOREWORD

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), since its inception in June 1978 as a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), has conceived of statistics-related activities as a major facet of the original mandate that had been drawn up for it by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. In this connection, it has established several tools for data collection, processing and dissemination. One kind of such tools includes statistical data bases, on which most of its statistics publication activity is based. A new one, in keeping with the recent developments in the world of informatics, is the preparation of a web site which was launched on 1 July 1997.

As the Centre carries out a well-integrated programme of data collection, processing and dissemination, it sees the present volume as well as the maintenance of the above-mentioned web site as different facets of the same activity. Actually, from now on, all the researchers that undertake studies on the socio-economic aspects of the member countries of the OIC who used to wait for new issues of the statistical yearbooks and pocketbooks that are published by the Centre will be able to obtain almost the same data on a more timely basis. The reason is obvious; the data that is published in printed form is also available in electronic form, almost in the same detail (maybe as shorter time series) with one very important difference: recency. The data that is obtained from the member countries is being updated regularly in the web site's information before it gets to be published.

The data contained in this pocketbook was collected mainly from the international sources and processed by the Centre's personnel to suit the needs of researchers who carry out community-specific research. Accordingly, the data for different countries are made comparable to

the extent possible, and the special aggregates have been compiled specifically with the coverage of the OIC member countries in sight. The data on all the members of the OIC, 55 in all, are presented on individual country pages with similar formats. They are distributed under 16 general subject areas and comprise a total of 138 different indicators. Time coverage is 1990 and 1994-1996, both dates inclusive.

In this context, it is most appropriate to note that the content, and therefore the quality and use of such statistical publications will only be improved with the active support of the member countries of the OIC. If the respective organs in the member countries responsible for data collection and dissemination, support the Centre in its activities of statistics collection, collation and dissemination enthusiastically, in other words, if they make a concerted effort to add our Centre's name to their mailing lists for publications and exert a special effort to have the Centre receive these publications, the related activities of the Centre will become even more effective. We present this volume with the hope that it will stimulate such support on the part of the member countries of the OIC.

**Erdoğan Erdün**  
**Ambassador**  
**Director General**