Major statistical associations and research firms from around the world have recognized 2013 as The International Year of Statistics, underscoring the value of statistical science in research, business development, and policy analysis. ProQuest celebrated this Year of Statistics by releasing two international statistics products in the summer of 2013.

Librarians have told us that the demand for international data at their institutions has increased dramatically in recent years. Often those demands go beyond the scope of the data collected and maintained by the World Bank and other international organizations. A student might need socioeconomic data for a foreign city or sub-national area; a professor might need long-term trends in the health behavior or consumer spending in a particular country. That’s why both of our new products combine data from international organizations with data from foreign government statistical agencies.

PROQUEST STATISTICAL ABSTRACTS OF THE WORLD
Building on the positive response to ProQuest Statistical Abstract of the United States, this new product will aggregate the statistical abstracts of approximately 40 countries and make the content available through a single-search interface. These statistical abstracts are generally issued by the national statistical offices of foreign governments and contain country-level data not easily found elsewhere. Global and regional statistical compendia issued by international organizations and research firms will also be included.

Users will be able to browse the tabular content of each compendia section by section, apply table-specific filters to narrow results, search across all content or within a single country, as well as view and download a table in a spreadsheet. In its look and feel and overall functionality, the product will resemble ProQuest’s Statistical Abstract of the United States…but with much broader coverage of content.
PROQUEST INTERNATIONAL DATASETS

For several years researchers and librarians have told us they need a systematic way of finding sub-national data for the countries of the world—that is, data by country, city, state or province. Meeting that need is the primary goal of this product. Our new product will aggregate detailed datasets from national governments, international organizations, and research firms.

Our premier content provider is Oxford Economics, an economic research and forecasting firm in business since 1981. Oxford will provide users with social and economic data for 2,600 cities from around the world, detailed economic trends and forecasts for 190 countries, and production and employment data for 100 industries in the BRIC countries. Most of the data from this provider, as with others, is in a deep-time series. Country-level data is generally 35 years deep; city-level data, 15-20 years.

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BROAD AND DEEP GLOBAL COVERAGE

Both of ProQuest’s new international products compile data from national governments and from international intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), such as the United Nations and European Union. The chief value of IGO data is that it has been normalized to support country-to-country comparisons. Staff statisticians have adjusted national statistics to account for methodological differences among countries. However, the IGOs do not collect all types of social and economic statistics. For example, statistics on consumer behavior, commuting patterns, or religious affiliations can be found only in the publications or on the data sites of foreign government statistical agencies. Hence, the value of compiling statistics from both IGOs and national governments: the nature and scope of reference desk questions are unpredictable.