

CMEA INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON'S RESULTS.

ALEXEY N. PONOMARENKO

Higher School of Economics, National Research University, Moscow
ponomarenko@hse.ru

ABSTRACT

Historical statistics give us an objective picture of the level of economic and social development of a society during this period and, from this point of view, we can use this data for statistical modeling of long-term trends.

A good example of such statistics is the results of international comparisons based on purchasing power parity of national currencies were conducted by the regional organization of the Eastern bloc under the leadership of the USSR, that was, the Council for mutual economic assistance (CMEA) for the member countries of this organization. This regional grouping was known in the West as COMECON. CMEA conducted five rounds of comparisons once every three years. The last one was done in 1988. The results of these comparisons were classified as "Top Secret" and have never published for political reasons. In 1991 these results were officially declassified but, they have not been published yet. The data set includes lot of primary data on production and consumption (because CMEA produced comparisons for the both these parts) and related prices for all CMEA countries plus Mongolia. They are stored in Rosstat – Russian Federal Statistical Service and are in the free access. Unfortunately, the format of these data currently is not very useful for research. Our university – Higher School of Economics of Moscow - has launched a project to digitalize and publish this data.

As we hope, by the end of year the CMEA results be published, converted in line with modern statistical standards and prepared for comparisons and analysis. We will set it special web-site for the free access of all interested researchers and invite everyone to cooperation. Actually, we are inviting everyone to cooperation right now.