Another Textbook on Social Indicators

Robert V. Horn has published a textbook on economic and social indicators, adding to the three textbooks currently in print. His new volume includes methodology for developing and analyzing indicators and the applications of them in the social sciences. The chapter, Social Applications of Indicators, explores indicator uses in fields of health, education, intelligence, science, environment, culture, human rights, war and peace, politics, merit performance, status, time use and urban studies. Statistical Indicators for Economic and Social Sciences, Victoria, Australia: Cambridge University Press, 1993. pp. 225, 70 tables; hardback Austr. $70.00, paperback Austr. $29.95.

Other texts on social indicators are:


OECD Releases Indicators Comparing Education in Twenty Countries

In a development program that began in November 1987, the OECD International Education Indicators Project has published a set of about
30 indicators comparing education in 20 countries for the 1988 school year. Plans are being carried out to assemble indicators for the 1991 school year.

Under “Costs, Resources and School Processes,” are listed eight indicators on expenditure on education, two indicators on human resources, six indicators on population and student flows, and five indicators on decision-making characteristics of the school system. Under “Demographic, Economic and Social Context,” are presented four indicators of demographic factors and one of economic factors. Under the “Outcomes of Education” are presented five indicators of educational attainment, three of learning outcomes, and two of status after schooling.


In a meeting in Paris, January 25–26, 1993, experts reviewed the volume and offered criticisms. They included Prof. Erik Hanushek (U.S.), Sir Claus Moser (U.K.), and Prof. Francois Orivel (Fr.). Several critical issues were identified:

- EAG 1 inadequately addresses interests of business, industry and the general public.
- Progress is needed for indicators on outcomes of education.
- More information is needed on the demographic, cultural and ecological contexts in which education systems operate.
- Time series and forecasts should be included in future editions.
- How indicators can be fruitfully employed in decision-making is needed.

Studies at national levels are going forward. Canada, Belgium, Denmark, France and the U.S. each are studying country-specific, within-system sets of indicators. Reports have been released for France, Denmark and the U.S.