European Journal of Business, Economics & Management

Vol. 1 No. 2 2025

Article **Open Access**

Mapping National Progress through Statistics: A 2023 Overview of Yearbooks from China, the U.S., Japan, India, and Vietnam

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Received: 24 May 2025
Revised: 31 May 2025
Accepted: 16 June 2025
Published: 23 June 2025

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Abstract: This overview focuses on the statistical yearbooks of China, the United States, Japan, India, and Vietnam in 2023, referring to the World Bank database, and briefly describes what aspects of national development each country's statistical yearbook includes and conducts a brief comparative analysis of the data. A statistical yearbook is a comprehensive reference publication primarily composed of statistical charts and explanatory analyses, systematically and annually documenting the economic, social, and other developments over the course of a year through detailed statistical data. Therefore, the main purpose of this overview is to present the data included in the statistical yearbooks of these five countries, and further explain the situations and issues reflected by the data, which will help in searching and analyzing data when studying national economic and social issues in the future.

Keywords: data; statistical yearbook; World Bank database

1. Introduction

Statistical yearbooks serve as authoritative, comprehensive records of a nation's development across economic, social, demographic, and environmental dimensions. They reflect not just raw data, but national priorities, institutional structures, and evolving challenges. This study compares the 2023 statistical yearbooks of China, the United States, Japan, India, and Vietnam, focusing on their structure, thematic emphasis, and data representation. Drawing from national sources and cross-referencing with the World Bank database, it highlights the unique features and shared patterns in how countries measure progress. By analyzing these documents, we gain insights into not only data trends but also how each nation narrates its development story and guides its policy direction.

2. Comprehensive Description

A yearbook is a reference book of information that comprehensively, systematically, and accurately records the development of events in the previous year. It compiles important current events, documents, and statistical data of the year and is published annually. It has many advantages, with very comprehensive information. A yearbook integrates dictionaries, manuals, chronologies, atlases, bibliographies, indexes, abstracts, tables, statistical data, guides, and directories. It features authoritative data, timely updates, continuous publication, and comprehensive functionality. It is an information-intensive reference book. Therefore, statistical yearbooks also contain many data tables, line charts,

histograms, etc., to facilitate people to intuitively feel the changes of corresponding indicators over time [1].

According to the nature of the content, they are divided into comprehensive yearbooks, professional yearbooks, and industry yearbooks. According to the level, they are divided into national yearbooks and local yearbooks. Local comprehensive yearbooks are annual information documents that systematically record the natural, political, economic, cultural, social, and other aspects of a specific administrative region.

Yearbooks originated as some of the earliest historical records in which humans documented systematic knowledge acquired through practical labor, particularly astronomical observations of celestial movements made annually from an Earth-based perspective. The materials collected in yearbooks mainly come from government gazettes of the year, reports in important national newspapers, and data from statistical departments. Therefore, the data in yearbooks are highly credible and the statistical methods conform to scientific principles. The data in yearbooks have the characteristics of describing multiple aspects of the data, which is conducive to people analyzing the development of the country in that year through its data. Yearbooks have great summarizing and statistical significance and relatively systematic continuous reference value.

Statistical yearbooks also provide the public with an accessible means to understand the country. With the development of the times, society, economy, and culture have become more and more diversified, and human knowledge has become broader. As a "book" that combines data from various aspects of a region, statistical yearbooks help us understand a certain country or region well.

This study has studied the statistical yearbooks of five countries: China, Vietnam, Japan, the United States, and India. The following is a separate description of the statistical yearbooks of each country.

3. China Statistical Yearbook

3.1. Overview

China's statistical yearbook mainly includes twenty-eight chapters covering areas such as population, national economic accounting, employment and wages, prices, people's livelihood, and finance. It also includes chapters on resources and environment, energy, investment, foreign trade, agriculture, industry, construction, transportation, and services such as tourism, real estate, and public administration. Additionally, it provides data on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Macao Special Administrative Region, and Taiwan Province. At the beginning of each chapter, a brief description of the content of the entire chapter is provided, including the main content of the entire chapter, data sources, statistical methods, and other special supplementary information. This is conducive to readers having a comprehensive understanding of the content of the entire chapter and facilitating the search for specific data information.

3.2. Content Analysis

The first chapter is the comprehensive part, which mainly contains highly comprehensive indicator data such as the national administrative divisions, the total amount and speed indicators of national economic and social development, and the structural indicators of national economic and social development. Among them, the comprehensive table of national economic and social development reflects indicators such as the overall scale, growth rate, and structural composition of China's economy and society. In this part, we can see the vertical and dynamic comparisons of data in various aspects for the four years 1978, 2000, 2021, and 2022, as well as the horizontal and static comparisons of data in the same period. Among the indicators related to the national economy, there are mainly specific values, indices, and average growth rates from 1979-2022 and 2001-2022 regarding population situations, such as urban and rural populations, employed persons in different

departments, gender situations, different age groups of the population, birth rates, death rates, unemployment rates, etc.

In addition, there are specific situations regarding the three industries, such as the number of units in each province corresponding to the three industries, which allows readers to have a general understanding of the development of the three industries in various regions across the country. Through the comparison of the number of units between different provinces and regions, horizontal comparisons can also be made to analyze the investment and development of regions in different industries.

The number of corporate legal persons registered by region is also a relatively macro and comprehensive indicator. The numbers of different types of companies such as state-owned enterprises, collective enterprises, limited liability companies, and joint-stock companies can be statically compared within the same province and horizontally compared between different provinces. In particular, by comparing the number of foreign-funded enterprises, we can roughly analyze the extent of international economic cooperation and engagement across different provinces. For example, in 2021, there were 11,367 foreign-invested enterprises in Beijing, while Inner Mongolia had only 424, Shanghai had as many as 20,833, and Jiangsu had 19,723. After classifying by coastal degree, comparing the data shows that there are more foreign-invested enterprises in coastal provinces, indicating that geographical conditions have a great impact on industrial and economic development.

The subsequent chapters provide detailed expansions on the topics introduced in the comprehensive section. The second part is data on China's population. The statistical methods for the population part are as follows: a national population census is conducted in years ending with "0"; a national 1% population sample survey is conducted in years ending with "5"; and a national population change sample survey is conducted in other years, with a sample size of about 1‰ of the national total population. The population sample survey takes the whole country as the population, provincial units as the sub-population, and adopts a stratified, multi-stage, cluster probability proportion sampling method to select samples.

Through all the data in this part, we can have a more comprehensive and clear understanding of China's population, and can form a more systematic understanding of the annual changes in population, population structure, population composition, population quality, and other aspects.

This content reflects the basic situation of China's population in 2021 and previous years, including data on the national population over the years, urban and rural populations, birth rates, death rates, natural growth rates, household size, etc. The National Bureau of Statistics has conducted detailed investigations into population changes, structure, and demographic composition, which serve as the basis for the published data. It can be seen that from 1978 to 2021, China's population natural growth rate showed an overall downward trend, dropping from 12‰ in 1978 to -0.6‰ in 2021. The main reason for the significant decline in the natural growth rate is the sharp decline in the birth rate (see Figure 1).

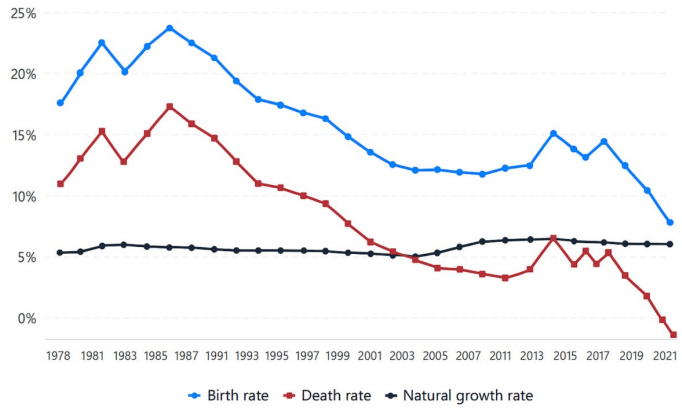

Figure 1. Changes in China's Population Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Natural Growth Rate from 1978 to 2021.

In addition, the proportion of urban and rural populations is also a metric that has changed significantly. The urban population has been continuously increasing. Compared with 17.9% in 1978, the proportion of the urban population rose to 65.2% in 2021, and the proportion of the rural population correspondingly dropped from 82.1% in 1978 to 34.8% in 2021. This reflects a significant shift in China's urbanization process, driven by policy reforms, industrialization, and rural-to-urban migration. By comprehensively considering the data on the national residents' per capita disposable income, urban residents' per capita disposable income, and rural residents' per capita disposable income, it can be concluded that the urban residents' per capita disposable income is about twice that of rural residents. Therefore, it is evident that the standard of living in China has steadily improved over the period from 1978 to 2021. The following figure showing the annual changes in per capita disposable income from 1998 to 2018 also supports the above conclusion (see Figure 2).

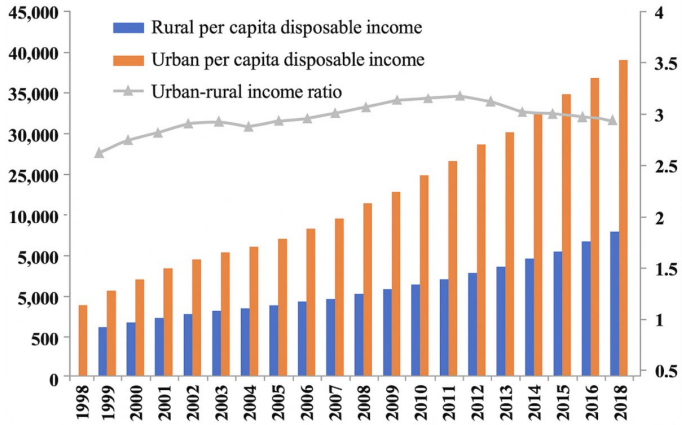

Figure 2. Annual Changes in per Capita Disposable Income from 1998 to 2018.

By analyzing the data on the number of illiterate people aged 15 and above by gender and region, we can see that the population aged 15 and above in Beijing is 20,378, but the number of illiterate people is only 161. Although this data comes from a sample survey with a sampling ratio of 1.058%, not a full population census, it can still realistically illustrate the problem. Due to its rapid economic development and high per capita living standards, Beijing has placed significant emphasis on the education of its residents. Almost all teenagers in Beijing can receive education, so the overall education level of the people in Beijing is very high. Comparing with Anhui Province, the population aged 15 and above in Anhui Province is 52,670, about three times that of Beijing, but its number of illiterate people is 2844, more than ten times that of Beijing. By comparing the proportion

of illiterate people, it can be seen that the per capita education level in Anhui Province is much lower than that in Beijing. Thus, it can be concluded that there is a positive correlation between economic development and education level. The above conclusion is drawn through horizontal comparisons between different provinces. Next, we compare the same province by gender. For instance, in Beijing, there are 161 illiterate individuals aged 15 and above — 35 male and 126 female — highlighting regional and gender disparities that warrant attention. Males account for 21.7% of the illiterate population, and females account for 78.3%. This shows that gender affects the education level, and after synthesizing more other provinces, it can still be seen that the proportion of females among the illiterate is significantly higher than that of males. The data table also presents the illiteracy rates among males and females aged 15 and above. As it gives the national overall proportion, the proportion of illiterate people among males nationwide is 1.5%, and among females nationwide, the proportion of illiterate people is 4.96%. Since the proportion of males and females in the national population aged 15 and above is basically 1:1, it can be concluded that more females nationwide have not received education. This issue, as revealed by the statistical yearbook, highlights the ongoing need to address gender disparities in education. With the rapid development of society and the continuous improvement of access to education, men and women should receive education equally, and the concept of gender equality should be upheld from family concepts to personal ideas.

The section on national economic accounting mainly includes four components: gross domestic product (GDP), input-output tables, funds flow tables, and balance of payments tables. Among them, the data can reflect the proportion of the three industries, the driving situation of GDP growth, and the contribution rate to GDP, etc. However, GNP data are periodically revised as the price structures of industries evolve along with economic development. In order to better reflect the impact of the industry structure on the economy, it is necessary to adjust the base period every few years when calculating the constant-price GDP.

This content focuses on GDP, balance of payments, the number of enterprises, and other aspects. First, looking at the table of GDP, this table contains the national income and GDP for each year from 1978 to 2021, and also separately gives the GDP of the primary, secondary, and tertiary industries, as well as agriculture, manufacturing, construction, wholesale and retail, transportation, accommodation and catering, finance, real estate, and other sectors. First, by vertically comparing the GDP and GNP of different years, we can analyze the speed of China's economic development in different time periods. By combining the growth changes of GDP in different industries, we can obtain the development speed of different industries and the proportion of contributions of different industries to GDP. For example, a vertical comparison of the data reveals that the tertiary industry has experienced rapid growth since 2005. Through horizontal comparisons between different industries in the same year, it can be seen that the primary and secondary industries are still important parts of China's GDP, but historically their combined output was once significantly larger than that of the tertiary industry. However, in recent years, the tertiary industry has surpassed them in terms of GDP contribution.

Specifically, looking at the catering and accommodation industry, its GDP declined significantly in 2020, from 1790.31 billion yuan in 2019 to 1528.54 billion yuan in 2020. Although it recovered somewhat in 2021, it only recovered to 1785.26 billion yuan, still not reaching the pre-pandemic level of 1790.31 billion yuan. By analyzing the changes in GDP at key time points, we can analyze the impact degree of major events on the production and development of different industries. For example, the catering and accommodation industry was greatly impacted by the pandemic. Similarly, the transportation industry was also greatly impacted by the pandemic, declining from 4246.63 billion yuan in 2019 to 4058.29 billion yuan in 2020. Due to the strict control measures during the pandemic, people's travel was greatly restricted and affected, which made the transportation industry suffer a great impact, and correspondingly, the tourism industry also suffered a

significant downturn, which negatively affected the performance of catering and accommodation sectors.

Next, looking at the table of GDP composition, this table reflects the specific structure of GDP. The data reflect the proportion of the three industries in GDP and the proportion of industries in different fields in GDP. By vertically comparing the changes in the proportion of the three industries, it can be seen that the proportion of the primary industry has gradually decreased, while the proportion of the tertiary industry has shown an overall upward trend. In 1978, the primary industry accounted for 27.7%, and the tertiary industry accounted for 24.6%. By 2021, the primary industry's share had decreased to 7.3%, while the tertiary industry's share had increased to 53.3%, becoming the dominant contributor to GDP and surpassing the traditionally leading secondary industry. The tertiary industry mainly includes service industries such as catering, transportation, and culture, which have less impact on the environment compared to the secondary industry and require higher levels of technology and social development. Thus, it can be seen the changes in China's economic development priorities over the past few decades.

The economic situation of China comprises four main aspects: employment and wages, prices, people's livelihood, and finance. Through the data, we can see China's overall employment situation, including the number of employed persons in various departments, the number of employed persons in state-owned enterprises, private enterprises, and foreign-funded enterprises, as well as the wages of various industries and different types of companies. Through horizontal comparisons, we can analyze the development level of different industries and their employment structures within China. Vertical comparisons can show the development situation of various industries relatively from 2005 to 2022. For example, in 2005, the total wage was 2,062.71 billion yuan, of which the wages in the primary industry, including agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, and fishery, were 36.87 billion yuan, accounting for 1.79%. In 2022, the reported total wage across sectors was 19,082.02 billion yuan, of which the wage in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, and fishery was 46.37 billion yuan, accounting for just 0.2%, under the same statistical scope. It can be seen that the proportion of wages in the primary industry has gradually decreased. Combining with the employment situation in the primary industry, it can be seen China's industrial transformation, shifting from the primary industry to the secondary and tertiary industries, thereby reflecting China's economic development situation.

In the section on average wages of employees in urban non-private units by industry, we can obtain data on average wages and the average wages of different industries. The data is comprehensive and detailed, which can provide a deeper understanding of China's overall employment situation and serve as a reference for future employment planning. In addition, this table also includes average wages in different regions, from which the gaps in average wages among different provinces can be clearly seen, further reflecting the economic development conditions in different regions. By focusing on provinces with excessively low average wages, we can also target and improve the overall development of industries in these regions.

The subsequent sections mainly focus on environmental and social development, presenting detailed indicators and trends through statistical data. Additionally, there are statistical data on various industries, including the number of enterprises, employees, profits, taxes, and other information within each industry. Finally, data related to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Macao Special Administrative Region, and Taiwan Province are included as compiled by the National Bureau of Statistics. The relevant data for these three parts are collected by local governments and compiled and organized by the National Bureau of Statistics of China.

4. Vietnam Statistical Yearbook

4.1. Overview

The Statistical Yearbook of Vietnam has a total of 1216 pages. It begins with a table of contents, which includes specific information on the preface, an overall review of the socioeconomic situation in 2022, government structure, land and climate, population and employment, national cash flow, banking conditions, insurance, industrial investment, corporate cooperation and the establishment of independent enterprises, trade and tourism, and other aspects [2].

Unlike China's statistical yearbook, which is divided into chapters and major categories, Vietnam's statistical yearbook features more detailed classifications. While China's yearbook primarily focuses on statistical tables, Vietnam's includes extensive written narratives and predictions for future data, which in my view makes its information richer, though its data clarity is not as good as China's. The yearbook mainly contains data from the current year (2022) and the previous year (2021), with very little data from the past 10 to 20 years as seen in China's yearbook. Therefore, analyzing a single year's statistical yearbook of Vietnam is less conducive to longitudinal comparisons. Instead, it mainly reflects data comparisons between different regions within Vietnam, facilitating easier regional situation contrasts.

Notably, the Vietnamese statistical yearbook also includes data tables with monthly intervals for indicators, such as regional humidity levels. This demonstrates that the yearbook has its own characteristics, as indicators like humidity are categorized by month, reflecting regional climatic characteristics. Due to Vietnam's tropical monsoon climate, there is significant focus on climate, particularly since the unique characteristics of humidity and temperature affect production conditions. Additionally, with a larger proportion of coastline and greater influence from the ocean compared to China, the statistical yearbook also covers sea level heights by region, year, and month.

4.2. Content Analysis

In addition to the general table of contents at the beginning, the Vietnamese Statistical Yearbook provides an overall introduction to each section. It presents the overall data for each section, as well as comparisons with the previous year, followed by subsections within each section.

In the section on population and employment, highly detailed data and analysis can be obtained. For example, employees working in the economic sector are categorized by gender and region, and unemployment rates are examined using age, gender, and region as classification criteria. Overall, the data primarily cover employment, unemployment, and training. These indicators are further categorized by region, age, gender, and place of residence. This allows for horizontal comparisons to analyze Vietnam's employment situation.

Through the relevant data in the finance and economy sections, we can observe the national fiscal expenditure, monetary value, the percentage of national budget revenue in GDP, and the balance of payments. These data can reflect Vietnam's market operation and foreign trade conditions. Moreover, through longitudinal comparisons, we can analyze the country's economic development status and overall trends, and predict future development based on the available data.

Next are data on environment, health, culture, living standards, sports, and social order, which are comprehensively covered. Health-related data also include the number of hospital beds and doctors, reflecting the hardware and software levels of medical conditions from multiple aspects. Vietnam counts the number of doctors according to multiple criteria, such as regions and hospital levels. In terms of culture and education, the Vietnamese statistical yearbook also separately counts the number of libraries by region. Notably, data on sports even include information on awarded sports medals, demonstrat-

ing the yearbook's meticulousness. By analyzing research and development (R&D) expenditure, we can assess Vietnam's technological development and changes in the government's emphasis on scientific research.

Next, let's look at the specific situation of each section, taking the data on land and climate as an example. The sub-catalog includes specific data related to land and climate, such as land use, industrial land, sunlit land area, specific humidity conditions, monthly sunshine hours, river water levels, average sea level heights, sea level changes in some regions, and monthly temperature conditions. After the sub-catalog, there are explanations of place names and technical terms to help readers better understand the information in the statistical tables. The table on land use shows the total area of each region, the area allocated to users, and the area not yet planned for use. In addition to absolute values, relative values are also provided, giving the percentage of land used for different purposes in the total land area, so that readers can better understand the composition, uses, and distribution of land in Vietnam.

The next section is Population and Employment. The statistical indicators mentioned in the sub-catalog include: regional demographics, population and population density, average population numbers divided by gender and region, average female and male quantities by region, average urban population, natural population growth rate, and other demographic data indicators. Next are employment-related indicators, including: labor force status by gender for those aged 15 and above, labor force employed in private enterprises, number of employed persons classified by different economic activities, and labor force quantities classified by region. The classification criteria are detailed, dividing statistical data according to demographic rules such as gender, region, place of residence, activities engaged in, and age, which can more thoroughly and comprehensively reflect the employment situation.

The Vietnamese statistical yearbook also provides relevant calculation formulas, informing readers how certain indicators and data are derived, which helps readers understand the yearbook data. Additionally, knowing the sources of the statistical data in the yearbook makes it easier to verify and find evidence.

The Vietnamese Statistical Yearbook contains numerous statistical tables. Since each table includes a limited number of indicators — such as when a table lists only regions without corresponding years — additional tables are required for year-based longitudinal comparisons to facilitate longitudinal comparisons of the data.

5. Japan Statistical Yearbook

5.1. Structure

The structure of the Japanese Statistical Yearbook is as follows, including an overview, statistical tables, charts, and annotations. Overall, the structure is relatively complete. However, an examination of its data reveals issues such as incomplete statistical coverage and inconsistent time classifications for different indicators. In addition to tables, the Japanese Statistical Yearbook also contains various types of charts, which enrich the yearbook's format and enhance readability, allowing readers to more intuitively and clearly understand the data.

5.2. Content

The statistical yearbook data of Japan mainly include geography and population, macroeconomic activities, companies and enterprises, labor, prices, housing and household debt, as well as social and foreign-related data [3].

In the geography and population section, data on islands, area, and other geographical landscapes can be obtained, such as the number and size of lakes. In terms of climate, the data is very detailed. The average temperature and precipitation for each month in each region of Japan are shown. Through horizontal comparison, one can understand the climate conditions of different regions and analyze which crops are suitable for specific

areas based on humidity and temperature conditions. However, most sections of the Japanese statistical yearbook contain data only for the corresponding year and do not include extensive data from previous years, making it inconvenient to conduct vertical comparisons unless yearbooks from other years are also consulted. If you want to make vertical comparisons, you need to open the statistical yearbooks of other years and find the same data types for comparison. Through vertical comparisons, the annual climate change situation in Japan can be obtained, and the impact of global climate change on Japan's climate environment can also be summarized.

In terms of monetary units, Japan's statistical yearbook uses the yen, while for other measurements, it adopts internationally recognized units.

Notably, Japan's statistical yearbook uses both the Gregorian calendar and the unique Japanese imperial calendar for dating, and provides dual-language translations in Japanese and English, which facilitates readers from other countries to access the yearbook.

A detailed analysis of macroeconomic activity data includes information on import and export conditions, international payments, and international cooperation. This section includes data from previous years, such as exchange rate data from 2005 to 2021 for the yen against the dollar, euro, pound, and won. This allows for longitudinal comparisons, showing whether the yen has depreciated or appreciated relative to these currencies. By combining this data with import and export tables, one can determine the relationship between exchange rate changes and trade activities. The import and export tables have trade partners along the vertical axis and categories of traded goods along the horizontal axis, revealing the proportion of imports and exports to different trade partners and identifying major trading countries by analyzing trade volume and proportion across regions. For companies, particularly in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, the data includes recent years' information but is not very up-to-date, covering 2015 to 2020. Given Japan's notable dairy products, the statistical yearbook also includes related data, describing annual raw milk production and the specific numbers of cows, calves, and horses. This indicates a broad coverage of data for the primary sector. In the social section, data covers education, culture, accidents, and disasters, with comprehensive yearly data under each main heading. Under culture, it includes information on museums, national libraries, university libraries, newly published books, and the number of magazines published. These data help analyze Japan's cultural output and societal cultural atmosphere.

Overall, Japan's statistical yearbook provides data that aligns well with Japan's national conditions and characteristics. The U.S. Statistical Abstract summarizes data from various sources, including the White House website, U.S. government information portals, and the FRASER database, allowing readers to observe data types and make comparisons across different sources. The U.S. Statistical Abstract reflects economic, social, and political conditions in the United States and to some extent, the living situation of its people. On the White House website, one can find annual economic reports, including government fiscal reports, reflections on the previous year, visions for the new year, investments in young children's education, competition in the digital economy, and environmental factors such as natural disasters and carbon dioxide levels.

These themes indicate that the report focuses on issues and areas considered priorities by both the U.S. government and the general public. It is evident that the U.S. places high importance on education, with policies aimed at strengthening higher education. Unlike the statistical yearbooks of some other countries, the U.S. report includes numerous charts, which make it easier for readers to observe data trends. For example, it presents a stacked bar and line chart showing the contributions of the four components of GDP, though some charts include historical data dating back to the 19th century, which has limited relevance for analyzing current development trends. However, other data, such as figures on elderly care facilities, child care facilities, and the percentage of female workers, spans from 1960 to 2020, providing significant reference value. Line graphs show how these factors have contributed to GDP over time.

The above is the analysis based on the information from data websites. Next is a general description of the U.S. Statistical Yearbook. The U.S. Statistical Yearbook is divided into thirty categories, which can be grouped into several parts, such as: the overall macroeconomic situation of the country, and the overall summary of basic national information, including population conditions, territorial area, etc.

The following sections also cover political affairs, such as U.S. presidential elections, which reflect the significance of the electoral system and the public's level of engagement in the democratic process.

From Chapter 15 to Chapter 27, excluding Chapter 19, this part describes the basic conditions of different industries in the United States. The yearbook illustrates the output and development of various industrial sectors in the U.S. across different regions and time periods. However, different industries have distinct focuses.

At the end of the yearbook is a description of the United States' involvement in international affairs, including import and export situations, participation in international matters, and government reserve funds, among others.

6. Indian Statistical Yearbook

6.1. Overview

Relevant data on India can be found on the website of the United Nations Data Bureau. It mainly consists of four major parts: basic information, economic situation, social conditions, and environmental and energy utilization. The economic part is the focus of this data, including GDP, GDP growth rates, and the proportion of agriculture, industry, and services in total GDP for the three years of 2010, 2015, and 2021. In addition, it also covers the proportion of employment in the three major industries to total employment, as well as unemployment rates and international import-export conditions.

6.2. Content Analysis

These data are typical indicators reflecting economic conditions. They not only mirror domestic economic development but also allow analysis of development trends and future prospects of the three major industries through both horizontal and vertical comparisons. However, the import-export data only provide numerical values without specifying the types of goods involved. Therefore, the import-export figures on this website can be used to calculate the balance of payments, determining whether there is a trade surplus or deficit.

Using data from the Indian Statistical and Programme Implementation Ministry's website, the national annual report (statistical yearbook) was consulted. In this yearbook, the data labeling format differs from that of the previous countries. For example, when presenting factors such as GDP and inflation rate, the statistical standards are labeled as 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22, giving a sense of transition. Through the GDP data in the statistical table, it can be seen that India's GDP dropped significantly during the 2020-21 period, from 20,074,856 in 2019-20 to 19,800,914 in 2020-21. However, India's GDP recovered rapidly in the following year, growing to 23,664,637 in the 2021-22 period, measured in core and estimated at current prices. The subsequent data tables also include the output value of various industries based on the base price of 2011-12, mainly classified into agriculture, industry, transportation and other service industries, as well as specific classifications such as infrastructure construction and financial industry data.

Table 1 also provides values for specific dates within each month, making it more detailed and precise, which is beneficial for year-over-year or month-over-month analysis. Lastly, at the end of the statistical yearbook, there is a summary of various projects for the years 2022-2023, which includes completed projects and their total costs along with the official commissioning dates.

Table 1. Break-up of Overall Inflation into Group/Sub-Group-Wise Inflation Rates, Based on CPI for Combined Sector.

Group/Sub Group Name	Weight	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22
Cereals and products	9.67	0.04	0.13	0.24	0.31	0.35	0.44	0.53	0.47	0.50	0.61	0.84	1.00	1.05
Meat and fish	3.61	0.31	0.24	0.20	0.24	0.32	0.43	0.32	0.37	0.39	0.14	0.05	0.11	0.14
Egg	0.43	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	-0.02	-0.03	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	0.00	0.00
Milk and products	6.61	0.20	0.22	0.25	0.27	0.31	0.36	0.36	0.40	0.38	0.41	0.46	0.49	0.49
Oils and fats	3.56	1.06	0.98	0.84	0.66	0.70	0.67	0.52	0.38	0.30	0.19	0.02	-0.02	-0.09
Fruits	2.89	0.13	0.16	0.10	0.06	0.07	0.15	0.07	0.09	0.19	0.21	0.16	0.14	
Vegetables	6.04	-1.68	-1.20	-0.23	0.33	0.37	0.67	0.85	1.02	1.01	0.67	0.82	1.09	0.53
Pulses and products	2.38	0.12	0.08	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.06	-0.01	-0.03	0.00	0.06	0.07	0.07	
Sugar and confectionery	1.36	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.00	
Spices	2.50	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.16	0.22	0.28	0.26	0.29	0.34	0.39	0.43	0.46

The data is detailed and reliable, allowing an analysis of India's overall national development in 2023 based on project expenditures, and providing an approximate measure of its government's economic strength.

7. Comprehensive Comparison

By analyzing the statistical yearbooks of the five countries, both similarities and differences can be observed. A commonality among them is that each yearbook includes fundamental national information, economic indicators, developments across various industries, and data on the environment and energy. These components serve as essential metrics for assessing a country's development in a given year. However, notable differences also emerge. For instance, the United States and Japan include statistics related to electoral processes, with the U.S. offering more detailed and extensive data [4,5]. This suggests that statistical yearbooks reflect not only universally important metrics but also the unique priorities and characteristics of each country. A case in point is China's inclusion of separate chapters for its two Special Administrative Regions and the Taiwan region, which allows for more targeted analysis of their respective economic, social, and cultural dynamics.

8. Conclusion

Through a detailed comparative analysis of the 2023 statistical yearbooks of China, the United States, Japan, India, and Vietnam, this study has revealed the multifaceted role of official statistics in reflecting national development and guiding policy formulation. While all five countries present core indicators, such as GDP, population dynamics, industrial output, and environmental data, their yearbooks differ significantly in structure, depth, temporal coverage, and emphasis. China's yearbook stands out for its longitudinal data and internal regional granularity, while Vietnam and India emphasize contemporary regional comparisons and sector-specific metrics. The U.S. and Japan integrate sociopolitical and international elements more prominently, reflecting broader governance concerns and data transparency practices.

These differences underscore that statistical yearbooks are not merely repositories of numbers, but cultural artifacts shaped by national priorities, institutional capacities, and governance models. They play a crucial role in promoting transparency, enabling academic research, and facilitating evidence-based policymaking. As global challenges grow increasingly complex, enhancing international comparability, methodological clarity, and data accessibility across statistical yearbooks will be essential for fostering deeper cross-national understanding and cooperative development.

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