



## Editorial

During the first quarter of 2010, the Office received the visit of Mr. Jean Marie Hakizimana, Data Processing Technical Manager at Statistics South Africa, with as objective, to advise on the use of new technology for capturing the 2011 Housing and Population Census data. The visit which took place under the UN Development Account project aimed at strengthening capacity of SADC member states, was made possible, thanks to Statistics South Africa and the UN Statistics Division.

Preparatory work for the Census which started since the second semester of last year has intensified during the first quarter. Emphasis is now being placed on the use of new technologies, namely, Optical Mark Recognition (OMR), Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) and semi-automated coding. Given that the Office will be using such technologies for the first time and for a nation-wide statistical exercise, it cannot afford any mistake. The visit of the expert who has wide experience in census data processing having worked for three rounds of Population Censuses in South Africa and all using new technologies has been most beneficial. Discussions held covered amongst others census management including tracking of documents and control logistics, scanning and recognition processes, skills and competencies needed, and design of census questionnaires in the context of use of scanning technologies. The visit has allowed us to learn from the experience of our colleagues in South Africa including mistakes to be avoided and has built confidence of our staff in this endeavour.

The first quarter was also marked by the participation of the Office in the second meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM-Africa) in Addis Ababa from 17 to 22 January 2010, and as observer in the 41st Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and its side events in New York from 19 to 26 February 2010. More information on the deliberations is found in the relevant articles of this issue.

## In this Issue

Editorial	1
Computerisation of National Accounts	2
Censuses and Surveys	2
Trade statistics	3
MDGs statistics	3
Agricultural statistics	4
2nd Session of the Statistical Commission for Africa	5
41st Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission	5
Progress – e-Business Plan	6
Visits on the CSO Website	7
Important Indicators	8
New Publications received	9
Training/Meetings attended by staff	10
Staffing Development	11
Customer Care	11
Tips on IT	12

### Vision

*To be a key provider of world-class statistical information*

### Mission

*To provide coherent, timely, relevant and reliable statistics, consistent with international principles and standards, for effective policy and decision-making, and for monitoring national development processes*

## Consultancy Services to set up a computerised system for the compilation of National Accounts and to develop methods for estimating regional Gross Domestic Product

The project under the Capacity Building Programme of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment (MOFEE) to set up a computerised system for the compilation of National Accounts and also to develop methods for estimating regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) started in May 2009 and is expected to be completed by September 2010.

Mr. Matthew Powell, Senior Consultant in Economic Statistics and Statistical Systems from Oxford Policy Management Ltd, has already undertaken three missions to the CSO. During the first two missions, he assessed the current National Accounts Systems and IT requirements and also had discussions on possible software for the computerisation process, following which ERETES has been adopted. ERETES has been installed on three computers and loading of data, mainly code files, started. Preliminary discussions were also

held with National Accounts staff, regarding possible ways of deriving regional estimates of GDP and possible data sources to be used.

During the third mission from 25 January to 5 February 2010, Mr. Powell examined the 2007 data files prepared by National Accounts staff according to his instructions during the second mission and proceeded with the loading of the data files. He also carried out a formal one-day training session on ERETES and an explanation session on the methodology for estimating regional GDP, including the System of National Accounts (SNA) recommendations and procedures in other countries. His next visit to the CSO is planned to take place from 5 to 16 April 2010, to proceed with the next phase of the consultancy services.

## Censuses and Surveys

### *International Training Programme on Research Methods in Labour Studies*

A 3-week training programme was organised under the auspices of ITEC/SCAAP Scheme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, from 8 to 26 February 2010 at the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI), New Delhi.

There were 27 participants from 19 countries. Mauritius was among the 4 countries which represented the African continent and its representative was the Statistician responsible for a survey used as the dedicated instrument for the direct measurement of labour force, employment and unemployment on a quarterly basis.

The specific objectives of the programme were to:

- (i) understand various concepts and theories

related to labour;

- (ii) provide an overview of the labour scenario of the world in general and developing countries in particular;
- (iii) obtain deeper understanding of the emerging issues in employment and labour in the context of globalisation;
- (iv) understand and apply various research methods and techniques relevant to labour studies; and
- (v) acquire knowledge about different sources of data on labour.

The training consisted of a series of short lectures delivered by Fellows of the Institute as well as Professors from Indian Universities.

At the end of the training, one participant from each of the 19 countries was required to make a presentation on one theme related to his/her country.

## Trade Statistics

### *Training Workshop on Eurotrace*

Following the successful implementation by many countries of the Eurotrace software for trade statistics computerisation in regional blocks such as COMESA and ECOWAS, SADC Secretariat in association with the European Union took the initiative to conduct a training session on how to use this software for processing and disseminating merchandise trade statistics. Subsequently, a workshop was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 1 to 19 February 2010 to train trade statisticians of SADC member countries with the aim of implementing Eurotrace. It is worth noting that this software was designed by EUROSTAT for countries which do not have convenient software to process and disseminate trade statistics. The training workshop was chaired by Mr. Fines Munkezwe, from Statistics Division of SADC and the resource person was Mr. Olivier Delobbe, Expert in trade statistics from SOGETI.

The specific objectives of the training were as follows:

- (i) To increase awareness among participants about resources made available by Eurostat to Eurotrace users, including an on-line facility available on the CIRCA website where the software and user guides can be downloaded and users can participate in a discussion forum to share experiences and ideas on the medium and long term development of Eurotrace.
- (ii) To provide an introductory knowledge of the Eurotrace package (DBMS, Editor and COMEXT Stand Alone) using a real case scenario to demonstrate and experience the implementation and management of a foreign trade data processing system and finally to provide an introduction to the Structured Query Language (SQL) that can be used to implement data validation rules that can be applied upon importation and exportation into and from Eurotrace, respectively, to ensure that data are of high quality.

Member countries were strongly advised to implement this software despite having another system in their respective countries because Eurotrace is very user friendly and saves time especially for dissemination purposes.

## MDGs Statistics

### *Workshop on the Development and Management of MDGs databases at country level*

The workshop was organised by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union Commission (AUC) and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). It was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 15 to 19 February 2010. The workshop gathered participants from different African countries, with one representative from National Statistics Offices (NSOs) responsible for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) databases, as well as development partners and regional institutions. Mauritius was represented by a Statistical Officer from the Central Statistics Office.

The objective of the workshop was to enhance capacity building in the collection, compilation and dissemination of MDG indicators.

The workshop came out with the following recommendations:

- (i) Countries should urge the regional organisations (AfDB, UNECA and AUC) to establish a technical working group on MDGs to promote the development and dissemination of data on MDGs in Africa
- (ii) Preparation of a handbook on MDGs methodology for Africa, consistent with the UN MDGs handbook
- (iii) Sub-regional organizations (AFRISTAT, COMESA, ECOWAS and SADC) and regional organisations would provide support for the promotion and development of statistical data for MDGs monitoring in African countries
- (iv) Countries are encouraged to use DevInfo, a user-friendly software developed by UNICEF, for disseminating MDG indicators.

## **Agricultural Statistics**

### ***1st Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS) Technical Committee***

The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate of SADC has been mandated to rationalize the various agricultural information systems of Member States into a more Integrated System to ease data sharing and facilitate stakeholders in agriculture and agro industry.

A meeting was held from 10 to 12 March 2010 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Representatives from National Statistical Offices and the Ministry of Agriculture of the SADC Member States attended the meeting. Mauritius was represented by the Ag. Principal Agricultural Officer of the Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Production & Security and the statistician responsible of the Agriculture Unit at the Central Statistics Office.

The objectives of this meeting were to:

- (i) clarify the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the AIMS Committee
- (ii) clarify the objectives of the AIMS Programme
- (iii) discuss pertinent issues of Member States regarding the regional information system
- (iv) formulate a road map for the development of AIMS

The main challenges of the AIMS Committee are as follows:

- (i) diversity of data sources/themes
- (ii) diversity of stakeholders and their needs
- (iii) finding most appropriate mechanism for interaction in the region
- (iv) sustainability of the system

Once the TOR of the AIMS Committee would be finalised, an approved AIMS National Technical Committee need to be established in each Member State

## General

### *Second Session of the Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM – Africa II)*

STATCOM-Africa is the apex statistical body at the continental level. It provides for a forum for discussion and decision-making on all aspects of statistical development of interest to its members. It acts within the framework of the policies and procedures of the United Nations (UN) and is subject to the general supervision of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of Ministers of Finance and Economic Development. Members of the Commission are heads of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of ECA Member States and meet every two years, the meeting being held before the United Nations Statistical Commission and the ECA Conference of Ministers which considers reports of the meetings.

The second meeting of the Commission was held from 18 to 21 January 2010, with as objectives

- (i) To take stock of progress made since its first meeting;
- (ii) To share experiences on efforts by sub regional, regional, and international organizations, and development partners in statistical development on the continent;
- (iii) To exchange experiences and best practices on countries' efforts to support national, regional, and international development initiatives with quality statistics;
- (iv) To work out modalities for the coordination of ongoing statistical capacity building activities on the continent; and
- (v) To agree on a list of items for consideration by STATCOM-Africa III.

The Commission reviewed the work of the various working groups set up during its first meeting, namely Data Management, Development Indicators, Gender Statistics, Informal Sector, National Accounts, Statistical Training and Harmonization of Statistics in support of economic integration. Some concern was expressed on the slow progress of some of the groups.

The Commission supported the organization of a high-level Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics given the inadequacy of civil registration systems in most African countries. It also stressed on the need for better agricultural and environment statistics, and for geographical information systems.

Issues relating to donors' initiatives, financing of statistical development, and reporting mechanisms of funding of partners and activities of countries were discussed at the African Statistical Development (FASDEV-IV) meeting that was held after the STATCOM-Africa meeting.

### *41st Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)*

The United Nations Statistical Commission is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council. It is the highest decision-making body for international statistical activities, more specifically for the setting up of statistical standards and the development of concepts and methods, and their implementation at the national and international level. It brings together heads of national statistical offices of member states.

The 41st session of the UNSC took place from 23 to 26 February 2010 at the UN headquarters in New York. Some 130 national statistical offices and 40 international agencies participated in the session and its side seminars covering various topics such as Emerging Trends in Data Communication and Dissemination, Official Statistics, Modernization of the Statistical Production Process, Country Practices in SDMX, Data Communication and Dissemination, International Trade Statistics - finding answers for a changing world, new challenges and opportunities, and Measuring Property Prices. The Commission considered 31 papers, of which 13 were for discussion and 18 for information.

It endorsed the proposal for the observance of the World Statistics Day on 10 October 2010 with a view to promoting the importance of official statistics. The theme for the celebration would be "Celebrating the many contributions and achievements of official statistics" emphasising the core values of statistical services to the nation. National statistical offices and international agencies are urged to prepare posters and publicity materials, and hold observance events for this special day.

Following discussions held, the United Nations Statistics Division will amongst others,

- (i) organise a world conference on Global Geographic Information Management to explore issues related to geographic information and the integration of statistical and geographic information;
- (ii) look into the data needs arising from the climate change agenda, with the possibility of setting up an ad hoc group on Climate Change Statistics;
- (iii) organise the work of the group of experts on the development of a generic quality framework template that will assist countries to develop their quality procedures. The framework is expected to enhance the quality of statistical procedures and outputs. The template which will be built on work already done by various national and international agencies will be presented at the next Commission session.
- (iv) provide assistance to countries to make their statistical information more accessible to a broader spectrum of users in the light of increasing demand and new technological tools.

### **Progress – e-Business Plan**

The e-Business plan is divided into 3 phases with each phase taking roughly around 1 year to complete. The implementation of phase 2 of the e-Business plan started in mid-January 2010. Whereas phase 1 was focused on building the hardware and software infrastructure for the CSO to make efficient use of Information Technology, phase 2 focuses on the migration and change management needed for the office to absorb those technologies into its work processes.

The 2011 Housing and Population Census will make full use of the e-Business infrastructure and, as such, the e-Business team has been working for the last couple of months on the best approach to the use of Information Technology to increase the quality and reliability of data collection and capture while shortening the time to capture, code and process the census data. During that same period an asset management and issue tracking system has been developed on the centralised database to help the IT staff track all CSO hardware and their reported issues. This system is in the process of being populated with the necessary data on all CSO computers, printers, scanners, etc.

## Visits on the CSO website

The total number of hits rose by 30.4% in March 2010 to reach 5,126 from 3,931 in December 2009.

During the First Quarter of 2010, total visitors amounted to 12,999, of which 7,133 were local and 5,866 were foreign. The number of visitors by type and by main country in the Fourth Quarter of 2009 and First Quarter of 2010 is shown in the table below.

### Number of visitors – 4th Quarter 2009 and 1st Quarter 2010

Country	4th Quarter 2009		1st Quarter 2010	
	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Local</b>	<b>8041</b>	61.9	<b>7133</b>	54.9
<b>Foreign</b>	<b>4939</b>	38.1	<b>5866</b>	45.1
<i>of which main countries:</i>				
United States	1517	30.7	866	14.8
Great Britain	650	13.2	424	7.2
India	340	6.9	343	5.8
France	162	3.3	210	3.6
South Africa	223	4.5	162	2.8
Malaysia	142	2.9	110	1.9
Australia	194	3.9	107	1.8
Canada	104	2.1	94	1.6

*“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young” by Henry Ford*

## Important Indicators

### *GDP Growth Rate*

GDP is expected to grow by around 4.6% in 2010 compared to 3.1% in 2009. The graph below shows the start of recovery of the economy in 2010.

### *Consumer Price Index*

The Consumer Price Index, which stood at 117.2 in December 2009, registered a net increase of 1.6 points (or 1.4%) to reach 118.8 in March 2010.

The inflation rate for calendar year 2009 was 2.5 % while that for financial year 2008/09 was 6.9%. On the basis of trends in previous years and recent price changes, the inflation rate for financial year 2009/10 is forecasted at around 2%.

### *Unemployment*

The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2009 works out to 6.3%, slightly higher than the 6.2% registered in the corresponding quarter of 2008.

### *Tourist Arrivals*

Tourist arrivals for the year 2009 decreased by 6.4% to reach 871,356 compared to 930,456 for 2008. Gross tourism receipts, compiled by Bank of Mauritius, for 2009 were Rs 35,693 million, i.e. a decrease of 13.4% compared to Rs 41,213 million for 2008.

Tourist arrivals for the year 2010 is forecast to be around 915,000 representing an increase of 5.0% over the figure of 871,356 in 2009 whereas tourism receipts will be around Rs 40,150 million, an increase of 12.5% over 2009.

*“We're drowning in information and starving for knowledge” by Rutherford D. Rogers*

## New Publications received

The following publications have been acquired during the first quarter of 2010.

### Local Publications

#### *Reports*

#### **1. Bank of Mauritius**

- (i) Annual Report on Banking Supervision, 2009
- (ii) Financial Stability Report, February 2010

#### **2. Mauritius Commercial Bank**

Annual Report, 2009

#### **3. Financial Services Commission**

Annual Report, 2009

### Foreign Publications

#### *Periodicals*

#### **1. INSEE**

- (i) Courrier des Statistiques, December 2009
- (ii) Economie de la Réunion, December 2009

#### **2. World Bank**

World Bank Research Digest, Volume 4, 2009

#### *Reports*

#### **1. United Nations**

- (i) Practical Guide to producing Consumer Price Indices, 2009
- (ii) International Merchandise Trade Statistics Supplement to the Compilers Manual, February 2010
- (iii) International Trade Statistics Yearbook, 2007

#### **2. Inwent - Germany**

Statistics and Quality of Life, 2009

## Trainings/meetings attended by Staff during the First Quarter of 2010

### (i) Overseas

Name	Programme	Country	Period
Ms. L. F. Cheung Kai Suet	2nd Session meeting on STATCOM for Africa II	Addis Ababa Ethiopia	17-22 Jan
Mr. D. Jagai	Training Workshop on EUROTRACE and Trade Data Analysis	South Africa	1-19 Feb
Ms. C. Bandinah	International Training Programme on Research Methods in Labour Statistics	India	8- 26 Feb
Mr. D. Changeya	Workshop on the Development and Management of MDGs Databases at Country Level	Kenya	15-19 Feb
Ms. L. F. Cheung Kai Suet	41st Session of the UN Statistical Commission and Related Events	New York USA	19-26 Feb
Ms. F. Koussa	1st Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS) Technical Committee Meeting	Johannesburg South Africa	10-12 Mar
Mr. M. Dawoonauth	Workshop on National Accounts Computer Application Tool	Johannesburg South Africa	22- 25 Mar

### (ii) Local

#### *Seminar/Workshop*

Name	Programme	Organising Institution (s)	Period
Ms. M. Rusmally, Ms. K. Parkoondally, Mr. G. Chumroo, Ms. R. Allybokus, Ms. S. Chellen & Mr. J. Chuckowree	Training Course for Public Officers (who have opted for appointment as Officer)	Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms (MCSAR)	18-19 Jan; 4-5 Feb; 15-16 Feb; 8-9 Mar; 17-18 Mar
Mr. R. Seeruttun	Training Programme for Drivers	MCSAR	22-23 Feb
Ms. P. Bobeechurn & Ms. N. Seepargauth	Safe Use of Computer for CS, WPOs & Senior WPOs	MCSAR	19 Mar
Ms. L. F. Cheung Kai Suet & Ms. N. Meenowa	Training in Effective Communication Skills	MCSAR	24-26 Mar; 29-31 Mar
Mr. D. Juleemun	Workshop on World Consumer Rights Day 2010	Ministry of Consumer Protection & Citizens Charter	22 Feb

## Staffing Development

- (i) Mrs. S. RAMSURNSING, Senior Human Resource Officer, has been posted to this office with effect from 29 March 2010. She is replacing Mr. C. LACLOCHE, Senior Human Resource Officer who has been assigned the duties of Assistant Manager, Human Resource.
- (ii) Mr. D. PILAY, Higher Executive Officer, has been assigned the duties of Office Superintendent with effect from 31 July 2009.
- (iii) Mr. Y. M. BUXSOO, Senior Statistical Officer, has resumed duty on 8 March 2010 after one year's leave without pay granted to him.
- (iv) Mrs. A.G. PYENEEANDEE-PAKEEROO, Statistical Officer, has been appointed Educator in a temporary capacity with effect from 5 January 2010.
- (v) Mr. M. A. B. RENELLE, Statistical Officer, has proceeded on leave prior to retirement with effect from 5 March 2010 and will retire on 21 July 2010.

## Customer Care

One of the functions of the Publication Unit, located at the ground floor of the Central Statistics Office (CSO), LIC Centre, John Kennedy Street, Port Louis, is to provide guidance to visitors who come to this office in search of statistical information.

The unit receives on a daily basis visitors ranging from students to professional researchers. The table below shows the number of persons who visited CSO during the four quarters of 2009 and the first quarter of 2010. Among various areas of interest of the visitors, the most popular ones are National Accounts, Tourism, Trade, Labour, Demography and Price Indices.

<b>Visitors by Area of Interest, 2009 and 1st Quarter 2010</b>				
<b>Area of interest</b>	<b>2009</b>		<b>1st Quarter 2010</b>	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<b><i>Economic Statistics:</i></b>				
National Accounts	239	22.8	60	13.7
International Travel & Tourism	88	8.4	31	7.1
Education	56	5.4	16	3.7
External Trade	52	5.0	33	7.6
Other	102	9.8	47	10.8
<b><i>Social &amp; Demographic Statistics:</i></b>				
Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment	137	13.1	61	14.0
Population & Vital Statistics	159	15.2	28	6.4
Other	55	5.3	57	13.0
<b><i>Price Indices:</i></b>				
Price Indices	60	5.7	40	9.2
<b><i>Other Statistics:</i></b>				
Other Statistics	98	9.4	55	12.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1046</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Tips on IT

(by Ali Hoolash)

### Browser Wars: Join the battle!

Today, internet users have a choice among several browsers to surf the web and each browser currently available offer the user, to a certain extent, a different web experience. Which browser you use depends on which features are important to you but in any case, nothing can stop you from having a go at the different browsers and to ultimately choose the one that fits your needs.

The competition for dominance in usage share in the web browser marketplace started a long time ago. In the late 1990's, a certain **Internet Explorer** was fighting for a market share against **Netscape Navigator** (the commercial flagship product of Netscape Communications Corporation).



*The old days: Netscape 2.02*

Around mid-1995, Netscape Navigator was dominating the market share and Microsoft then released its Internet Explorer Version 1.0 as a free application bundled in its Windows 95 Plus pack. However, Microsoft's browser was still lacking in features when compared with Netscape Navigator. Over the following years, new versions of each browser were released at a rapid pace, resulting in new features being given priority over important issues like bug fixes and security holes. With Internet Explorer 3.0, Microsoft's browser was at par with Netscape Navigator in terms of features. History has it that with the release of Internet Explorer 4.0 in October 1997, Microsoft placed a 10 foot tall logo with the letter "e" on the front lawn of Netscape's offices and the employees showing up to work the next morning were faced with the giant logo. They quickly knocked it off and placed a giant dinosaur mascot over it with the latter holding a sign which read "Netscape 72, Microsoft 18", representing the

market share. Internet Explorer 4.0 changed the tides of the war as it was bundled with the Windows operating system. Critics claimed that this was giving an unfair advantage to Microsoft. This eventually led to the famous “United States Microsoft antitrust case” in 1998 which found that Microsoft had abused its monopoly on operating systems to unfairly dominate the market and eliminate competition. However, by that time Netscape Communications was already gasping for air, being deeply sunk into financial problems. Netscape was eventually acquired by America Online (AOL) leaving Internet Explorer with a web browser usage share of 96% during 2002.

Fast forward to 2010... after the demise of Netscape Navigator, a lot of new browsers were born and a few are robust challengers to Internet Explorer’s dominion of the web browser market. So here are the main web browsers that you can find today:

- (1) Internet Explorer (from Microsoft)
- (2) Opera
- (3) Google Chrome (from Google, of course!)
- (4) Mozilla Firefox

Opera was among the first web browser to introduce the tab feature, a very neat feature that allowed users to open new web pages next to the ones they had already opened. So, rather than have an entire new window being opened for a new web page, new web pages could now be opened in the *same* window, giving users more flexibility in moving across their different web pages. This feature is now present in all of the above listed web browsers.

So the browser war is still going strong....

On 11 December 2008, Google released the Chrome browser for Windows and by October 2009, it had gained around 3.6% of the usage share. Google wanted to change consumer perceptions and to challenge Microsoft’s dominance of the desktop computer. In February 2010, Google ran a billboard and newspaper ad campaign for its Chrome browser in the streets and underground train stations of London, Paris and Amsterdam.

On 19 March 2009, Microsoft released Internet Explorer 8 which according to the company included improved security features, accelerators (faster web page loading) and a compatibility mode for pages which were designed to be best viewed by Internet Explorer 7.

According to *StatCounter* (which is a web tracker) statistics during December 2009 and January 2010, Firefox 3.5 was the most popular browser, when counting individual browser versions, passing Internet Explorer 7 and 8. This is the first time a global statistic has reported that a non-Internet Explorer browser version has exceeded the top Internet Explorer version in usage share since the fall of Netscape Navigator. However Microsoft still has an advantage in that users still associates the “e” icon on their Windows desktop to the internet.

On January 21, 2010, Mozilla released **Mozilla Firefox 3.6**, which allows support for a new type of theme display, 'Personas', which allows users to change Firefox's appearance with a single click. It also improves JavaScript performance, overall browser responsiveness and startup times. These days, statistics show that Mozilla Firefox appears to be the new king but you can rest assured that the other browsers won't rest on their laurels!

So, which browser is *really* the best one? Unfortunately, I can't answer that question for you. Each browser has got its own advantages and disadvantages and you can decide only after trying a couple or all of them so as to get a real feel of how they work in practice. You can download them at the following addresses:

- (1) Internet Explorer 8: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/internet-explorer/default.aspx>
- (2) Opera 10.51: <http://www.opera.com/download/>
- (3) Firefox 3.6.3: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/products/download.html>
- (4) Google Chrome: <http://www.google.com/chrome>

And did I mention that they are all *free*? See you in the next issue!

## Jokes Corner

**1.** A statistician had his head in an oven and his feet in a bucket of ice.

His wife asked what was wrong.

"In average I feel just fine," replied the statistician.

**2.** A statistician's wife had a twin. He was delighted. He rang the minister who was also delighted.

"Bring them to church on Sunday and we'll baptize them," said the minister.

"No," replied the statistician. "Baptize one. I'd like to keep the other as a control."