

Contents

9 Acknowledgments

13 Preface

PART ONE: Key Indicators

21 Food Trends

Grain Harvest and Hunger Both Grow	22
Meat Production and Consumption Rise	24
Aquaculture Pushes Fish Harvest Higher	26

29 Energy and Climate Trends

Fossil Fuel Use Surges	30
Nuclear Power Rises Once More	32
Global Wind Growth Continues	34
Solar Energy Markets Booming	36
Biofuel Use Growing Rapidly	38
Climate Change Indicators on the Rise	40

43 Economic Trends

Global Economy Continues to Grow ...	44
World Trade Rises Sharply	46
Foreign Direct Investment Inflows Decline	48
Weather-Related Disasters Near a Record	50
Steel Surging	52

55 Transportation Trends

Vehicle Production Sets New Record	56
Bicycle Production Recovers	58
Air Travel Slowly Recovering	60

63 Health and Social Trends

Population Continues Its Steady Rise	64
Number of Refugees Declines	66
HIV/AIDS Crisis Worsening Worldwide	68
Cigarette Production Drops	70

73 Conflict and Peace Trends

Violent Conflicts Unchanged	74
Military Expenditures Surge	76
Peacekeeping Expenditures Soar	78
Mixed Progress on Reducing Nuclear Arsenals	80

PART TWO: Special Features

85 Environment Features

Mammals in Decline	86
Global Ice Melting Accelerating	88
Wetlands Drying Up	90
Forest Loss Continues	92
Air Pollution Still a Problem	94

97 Economy and Social Features

Socially Responsible Investing Spreads	98
Interest in Responsible Travel Grows	100
Global Jobs Situation Still Poor	102

105 Governance Features

Global Public Policy Cooperation Grows	106
Greater Effort Needed to Achieve the MDGs	108

111 Notes

136 The Vital Signs Series