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For information regarding the contents of this publication please contact the Federal Statistical Office:
Division IB, phone: (+ 49 - 611) 75 - 20 77 or fax: (+ 49 - 611) 75 - 39 50,
e-mail: christian.koenig@statistik-bund.de

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- on the Internet: <http://www.statistik-bund.de>

or from our information service

D-65180 Wiesbaden

- Phone: (+ 49 - 611) 75 - 24 05
- Fax: (+ 49 - 611) 75 - 33 30
- E-Mail: info@statistik-bund.de

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The catchword

Register-based implementation of the EU Regulation concerning short-term statistics in the service sector

According to Council Regulation (EC) No. 1165/98 of 19 May 1998 concerning short-term statistics, the Member States are obliged to provide the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) from mid-2003 at the latest with quarterly information on turnover and number of employees of enterprises in the areas of transport and communication (NACE section I) and other service activities (NACE section K); in Germany, such data are not available yet. The information will have to be supplied to Eurostat in the form of absolute figures or indices within three months after the end of the reporting period.

As it would hardly be possible to gain political acceptance for new quarterly primary surveys, involving additional burdens on responding enterprises, and as such data are available in administrative files, it is planned to meet the data demands arising from the Regulation concerning short-term statistics by using data from administrative registers. What is required for that purpose at intervals of less than one year is, first, data from the turnover tax (VAT) prepayment procedure (*Umsatzsteuer-Voranmeldungs- und Vorauszahlungsverfahren - UVV*) and, second, data on employees from the integrated procedure of reporting to social insurance institutions. Turnover data are stored monthly (bigger enterprises) or quarterly (small enterprises) in the turnover tax files of the fiscal administrations of the *Länder*; information on persons entering or leaving the stock of employees subject to social insurance contributions is updated on a monthly basis in the file of insured persons / local units of the Federal Labour Office (*Bundesanstalt für Arbeit - BA*).

Test evaluations were carried out for both data sources in order to obtain information on the suitability of such administrative data for EU short-term statistics. It was checked whether the employees data from the *BA* and the turnover data from the fiscal administrations of the *Länder* are available with a sufficient degree of completeness at the rather early point in time when the data have to be provided for EU short-term statistics. It was also examined to what extent the administrative data differ from data obtained through official primary surveys. As there are no suitable surveys for the service sector, such comparisons had to be based on data from the monthly report on manufacturing. The results of the tests were sufficient with regard to both focuses. In particular the test of *BA* data, which was based on a large data stock, suggests that *BA* data are suitable for purposes of short-term statistics. The *UVV* test was less informative because, due to confidentiality provisions, it could not be based on individual data. Instead, turnover data compacted on a two-by-two basis had to be used. As the combining procedure is highly complex, only a small number of units could be included in the test. With these reservations in mind, clear parallels were observed between the trends of data from *UVV* and those from the monthly report.

Based on these findings, ideas have been developed on how data might be transmitted from the agencies maintaining the files to the statistical offices. Two potential solutions currently under discussion with regard to data provision by the Federal Labour Office are, first, performing a tailor-made special evaluation explicitly for purposes of short-term statistics (at quarterly intervals) and, second, transforming the existing monthly 10% sample based evaluation of the file of insured persons into a total evaluation based on local units. As turnover data from the VAT prepayment procedure are currently used by the statistical offices for various statistical purposes (intra-Community trade statistics, turnover tax statistics, business register and, in the future, EU short-term statistics), it is now examined whether the fiscal administrations may combine those individual data supplies in order to make just *one* monthly data supply for *all* statistical purposes.

When the procedure of data supply has been defined, two other issues will have to be settled: First, a legal basis must be created for accessing the required administrative data at intervals of less than a year. Second, a technical concept must be developed - and implemented in terms of data processing - with regard to the storage and further processing of enterprise turnover data and local-unit related data on employees subject to social insurance contributions.

The envisaged use of turnover and employee data from administrative files for *new* (short-term) statistical purposes in the service branches is probably the approach involving the smallest burden on enterprises as it does *not* require additional sub-year surveys. Moreover, with the variable of "employees", the register-based concept will provide an economic indicator which - thanks to the high degree of representation of the *BA* data material - will allow the presentation of results in a detailed regional breakdown. Also, in combination with information from the future annual service statistics and the business register of the statistical offices, the *BA* data material may also provide a potential basis for the regionalisation of enterprise turnovers from the *UVV*. Altogether, combining data supplies from the fiscal administrations to the statistical offices, as planned in the context of the concept of register-based data acquisition, and the consequent gains in efficiency will probably contribute to modernising administrations.

Bernd Schmidt, tel: (+49-611) 75-2632, e-mail: bernd.schmidt@statistik-bund.de

Methods of federal statistics – Further development

How to develop an integrated system of household sample surveys

Background

Within the system of German official statistics, several ways are currently discussed of how the existing household sample surveys may be further developed to allow meeting also in the future the changing requirements in the political, scientific and societal spheres.

In the past, aggregate structural data – some of them in detailed technical and regional breakdowns – on various issues were sufficient to meet the demand, whereas today integrated information systems are required. They have to supply structural information, as was demanded in the past, and in addition they must allow flexible evaluations on changing issues at the micro-level, permit the coverage of new characteristics in the short term that may be integrated into the information system, and represent trends and changes, i.e. supply not only cross-section but also longitudinal information.

The existing system of household sample surveys was set up in the 1950s and early 1960s and consists basically of the microcensus, including the EU labour force survey, and the household budget surveys. Also, special surveys are conducted sporadically on the basis of Article 7 of the Federal Statistics Law. Although, time and again, the surveys have been adjusted to changing requirements, the fact that the microcensus, the household budget surveys and ad hoc surveys are conducted parallel and separately has remained unchanged. That structure makes it increasingly difficult for official statistics to perform its functions.

This is why the following targets have been defined:

- The household sample surveys should form an integrated system, so that the data of the various surveys can be combined to form a consistent set of data.
- It should be possible to conduct ad hoc surveys in a flexible, rapid and low-cost manner.
- Alternative ways of meeting the data demand should be created, thus disburdening the microcensus and the household budget surveys from additional surveys and counteracting the risk of their being overburdened by further modules.
- Household budget data in a sufficient technical and regional breakdown should be available on an annual rather than a five-year basis.
- Flexible integration of European statistical projects into the national system should be possible.

The research into further developing the voluntary household samples at the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder focuses on two lines: (1) Combining the sample survey of income and expenditure and the continuous household budget surveys to form an annual household budget survey and (2) setting up an access panel within the system of official statistics.

An annual household budget survey

The five-yearly sample survey of income and expenditure - which was last conducted in 1998 covering some 70,000 households - and the continuous household budget surveys – which involve quarterly rotation and cover about 6,000 households every year – might be developed further to form an annual household budget survey covering 18,000 – 24,000 households and collecting data on their income and expenditure. This would for the first time produce annual results in a sufficient subject-related and regional (federal Länder) breakdown, i.e. timeliness would be improved considerably. By using new mathematical-statistical tools to cumulate results from different reference years, it would be ensured that the requirements of users of the existing sample survey of income and expenditure could be met even with that modified sample size.

An access panel in official statistics

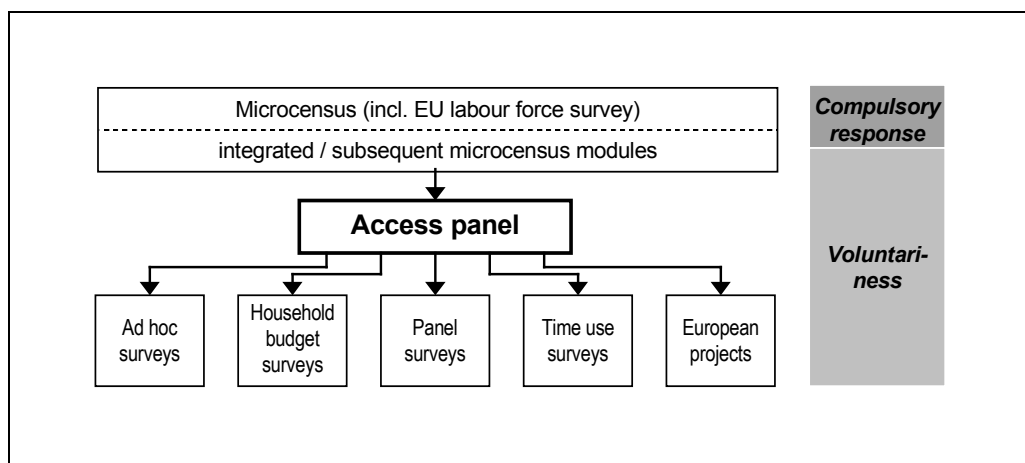
For a more efficient conduct of household budget surveys and the other household surveys with voluntary response in the system of official statistics, an access panel could be set up. It would serve as a basis for drawing samples. The access panel database would contain the addresses and basic variables of households selected on a representative basis, which volunteer to respond to official statistical surveys. Such an access panel is in itself a sample of the population, which in turn may be used to draw samples for voluntary-response household surveys. The following would be the major characteristics of an access panel:

- It would contain only households potentially ready to respond to surveys.
- Regularly updated basic information on such households would be available.

An adequately structured access panel would consequently provide the following major benefits:

- The overall period required for a survey could be reduced since, based on an access panel, the recruitment of a given number of households prepared to provide information would take by far less time. This is in particular true of samples which are designed to cover only a specific group of the population (e.g. low-income earners). The basic variables stored would be available to directly contact households belonging to that group without a preceding survey being required to identify those households.
- The cost of surveys could be reduced since higher degrees of coverage could be reckoned with and, consequently, fewer households would have to be contacted.
- As stratification would be possible based on the variables stored, samples of a particularly high quality could be drawn at random. That qualitative advantage would even be strengthened by the chance to make a comprehensive, statistical correction of the volunteer bias.

However, the preconditions for an access panel of official statistics to constitute an adequate basis for high-quality samples are that (1) such panel will be based on a random sample and (2) detailed information will be available on both the households participating and those not participating. An access panel constructed from the microcensus would fulfil the above preconditions. Here, households which have just completed their four-year maximum participation in the microcensus would be asked whether they would be prepared to take part in future surveys of official statistics. Besides, the households concerned would have to agree that, for the purpose specified, their addresses and variables previously inquired in the microcensus would be stored in the access panel database. The households recruited in this way would constitute the access panel.



As part of an overall system, an access panel could serve as a basis for all sample surveys of households and individuals which do not require compulsory response and for which a sample size considerably smaller than that of the microcensus would be considered sufficient. The range of surveys could hence cover ad hoc surveys for special purposes of the Federation and the Länder, household budget and time use surveys, household panel surveys for national and European purposes and other European statistical projects. By defining basic variables, which would be part of any of the surveys, the results of the individual surveys could be matched in a consistent way. Ad hoc surveys regarding specific issues could then rely on a known data structure as a result of which their informative value would be by far higher than that of unrelated surveys.

Dr. Sabine Bechtold, tel: (+49-611) 75-3331, e-mail: sabine.bechtold@statistik-bund.de

CHINTEX – A European research project on statistical data quality

The comparability of statistical results in terms of time, space, and subject matter is a major aspect of statistical data quality. At the European level, particular importance is attached to the comparability of statistical information between the European Union Member States. For a considerable period of time already, the statistical offices in Europe have undertaken great efforts to meet the growing demand of European institutions and national governments for high-quality data that are comparable across Europe. Such efforts – collectively referred to as harmonisation – include developing definitions of statistical populations, concepts and variables as well as the way of how data are to be obtained, i.e. the form of data collection or estimation; such definitions are then to be used by all Member States. In practice, there is a whole range of different ways of harmonisation, whose extremes are the two alternatives of input harmonisation and ex-post harmonisation.

Input harmonisation means that all steps of producing statistical results are consistently standardised, because all those steps exert influence on the result. From using harmonised definitions to the shaping of data collection and all the way to data processing and estimation, all aspects of the production process are defined and implemented in a uniform way in all countries. Consistent input harmonisation does not take account of statistical tools already existing in the Member States and tailored primarily to national data demand. Either such existing statistics have to be adjusted or new tools must be introduced. Therefore, input harmonisation, which at the same time is always ex-ante harmonisation, may cause considerable costs at the statistical offices.

In output harmonisation, the activities are limited to standardising the statistical results, i.e. the product of the production process. The definition of the product is binding, whereas the Member States are free to choose the methodology to be applied to obtain the product. Although, here too, this may mean new statistical tools, they need not necessarily be identical in the countries, which is due to the opportunity of accounting for national specificities. The special feature here, however, is that existing national statistics may be used largely unchanged, provided that the requirements regarding the product are met. This latter form of output harmonisation, which is also referred to as ex-post harmonisation, may be shaped by the statistical offices to be a low-cost method. If, however, output harmonisation involves introducing a new tool, it is an ex-ante approach, similar to input harmonisation.

Choosing a suitable harmonisation method always means having to make a trade-off between the conflicting goals of the quality of statistical results and the costs incurred. So far, however, there has been hardly any empirical basis for judging the supposed quality drawbacks of ex-post harmonisation. With the special data constellation of the European Community Household Panel (ECHP), that issue can now be examined. Since 1994, the ECHP has been conducted as an input-harmonised survey of the living conditions of the population in the European Union countries. After having participated for three years, Germany, the United Kingdom and Luxembourg decided not to apply the concept of input harmonisation any longer and to discontinue their national sub-surveys. Instead, data demand in those countries is now met through ex-post harmonisation, using as a data basis national panel surveys, which have been existing for many years and have mainly been used for scientific purposes. For Germany, the data of the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) of the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin (*Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung – DIW*) are converted into the harmonised format on an ex-post basis, following the European definitions. As such conversion is done for the entire period of the ECHP, pairs of panel surveys are available in the three countries for the first three years of the survey (1994 to 1996), i.e. one survey following the concept of input harmonisation and the other that of ex-post harmonisation. Comparing the pairs should enable us to gain major findings regarding quality differences between the harmonisation methods.

This is the task of the CHINTEX research project ("The Change from Input Harmonisation to Ex-post Harmonisation in National Samples of the European Community Household Panel – Implications on Data Quality"). It is funded for a total of three years as part of the Fifth Research Framework Programme of the European Commission and is coordinated by the Federal Statistical Office. Other members of the research consortium are the University of Frankfurt and the DIW Berlin from Germany, the University of Essex, Colchester from the United Kingdom, the CEPS/INSTEAD Institute, Differdange from Luxembourg, and Statistics Finland in Helsinki and the University of Turku from Finland. Finland participates in the project because income data have become available there in two waves both from the ECHP survey and from registers, which may be linked with each other. That situation is comparable with that in Germany, the United Kingdom and Luxembourg, though not for entire waves but at least for parts of data sets.

The main focus of CHINTEX is on the analysis of advantages and shortcomings of the above harmonisation strategies. This includes not only an empirical description but also the development and checking of statistical procedures aimed at a methodological improvement of the results of ex-post harmonisation. What is a major aspect here is studying to what extent the results of a rather new panel comprising just a few waves may be compared with those of a panel conducted for a long time already and, consequently, whether the substitution is justifiable. The research project touches upon areas that are of general scientific interest and refer to the general quality of statistical results obtained through panel data. That extended focus of research deals mainly with

- the causes, development over time and modelling of non-response in voluntary longitudinal surveys,
- the special opportunities of a panel survey to correct non-response in income-related questions by imputing estimated values, and
- the extent, trend over time and statistical impact of measurement errors in income data (rounding, using income classes, feedback effects of the survey on the data from respondents).

The subject of the CHINTEX project is highly relevant for the practical work of the European statistical offices and the empirical research of social and economic sciences. First results are expected to be available next year. The final results will be published after the project has been finished in 2003. Further information is provided on the Internet: <http://www.statistik-bund.de/chintex/index.htm>.

Roland Günther, tel: (+49-611) 75-3858, e-mail: roland.guenther@statistik-bund.de

Cooperation with the academic and research community

Microdata of the time use survey as a Public Use File on CD-ROM

Constructing Public Use Files from the time use survey is a new component of the work of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. For the first time, all those who are interested in receiving anonymised individual data or microdata in Germany or abroad are given access to those data on CD-ROM. So far, it has been a privilege of purely scientific institutions in Germany to work with microdata (the use of the data by that group of users being based on specific conditions of data access, i.e. on Scientific Use Files). The advantage and specific attraction of microdata consist in the diversity of the ways in which they can be used, including an almost inexhaustible variety of analyses and sources of information. While traditional tables and publications do not provide more than a selection of results, microdata can be time and again remixed and analysed by any user in any way to meet his individual demand for information about time use in Germany.

The 1991/92 time use survey was conducted with the financial assistance of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. It has remained the most recent study of that size (coverage: about 32,000 diaries) on time use in Germany. The Federal Statistical Office will – again with the support of the Family Ministry – repeat the time use survey in 2001/02 and, against this background, the 1991/92 data will even gain in importance as a basis for comparison in the future.

The 1991/92 survey, which covered about 7,200 households in the former territory of the Federal Republic and in the new Länder, was carried out by the Federal Statistical Office together with the statistical offices of the Länder. It was based on quota sampling and covered four survey periods between autumn 1991 and summer 1992. The time use of all household members aged 12 and over was inquired. For this purpose, the household members were asked to record in their own words their activities based on five-minute intervals in a diary on two successive days. Although the focus was on primary activities, data were also collected on secondary activities, persons involved or present, the location of the primary activity, and also for whom the activity was performed.

The primary and secondary activities specified in the diaries were coded on the basis of an activity list which encompassed more than 200 individual activities classified under the following activity fields: household work and do-it-yourself, paid job/job seeking, voluntary and community work, qualification/education, physiological regeneration, social life/contacts, use of media/leisure-time activities, childcare, and taking care and attending people. Times of getting ready and travel times (driving services) including the means of transport used were recorded as well.

Socio-demographic variables were collected for all household members in the introductory and final interviews. The same applied to variables regarding nursing and care. Consequently, the detailed structure of the households was reflected, even including information about children below 12 years of age who were too young to keep diaries of their own. Variables concerning the infrastructure (using and reasons for not using e.g. shopping facilities and childcare institutions) and networks (support received or rendered by a household in various areas) are available, too.

The Public Use File including microdata of the time use survey has been available to the domestic and foreign public since June 2000. Despite the high informative value of the microdata, data secrecy and the anonymity of the respondents have been well protected by anonymising the data absolutely, i.e. at the highest level of security (an 80% sub-sample of the original survey). To fulfil both a wide range of research interests and the requirements of data protection, the Federal Statistical Office was assisted in its work on data anonymisation by a Scientific Advisory Council whose members worked in most different areas.

The data are offered in both the SPSS-Portable (version 9.0.1) and ASCII format in two different packages. Apart from personal and household variables, package I includes variables with activity periods summed up over the day at a price of DM 420. Package II, which includes additionally the time unit variables at five-minute intervals, costs DM 560. As far as language is concerned, both German and English versions may be supplied, which encompass the designations of variables and categories and the respective manuals in the German or English language, respectively. Additional SPSS programs to combine and analyse the data, and data files to provide information about the survey and to facilitate data organisation are also supplied on CD-ROM.

Since an agreement is concluded between the user of the data and the Federal Statistical Office, which specifies the legal provisions for data access, the Federal Statistical Office requires information about the purposes of data use or the research project and also the scheduled duration of data exploitation in addition to a written order. And what is even more, the technical and organisational prerequisites must be ensured for using the data in accordance with the agreement concluded.

Persons who are interested in being supplied with the above data are requested to contact Mr. Erlend Holz at the Federal Statistical Office, tel: (+49-611) 75-3897 or Dr. Manfred Ehling, tel: (+49-611) 75-2903.

In addition, the Federal Statistical Office provides information on meetings or other events relating to time use surveys on the internet (<http://www.statistik-bund.de>).

Since summer 2000, an additional printed publication based on the 1991/92 time use survey has been available under the title "Zeitverwendung in Deutschland, Beruf – Familie – Freizeit" (Time Use in Germany, Occupation – Family – Leisure) in the German language. The publication (author: Erlend Holz; Publication Series "Spektrum

Bundesstatistik", vol. 13, ed. by the Federal Statistical Office; price: DM 28.80/EUR 14.73) is not only a scientific research contribution, but also a gripping description of German everyday life.

The Research Network on Time Use (RNTU), which has been continuously expanded by Prof. Dr. Joachim Merz, Forschungsinstitut Freie Berufe (FFB), Lüneburg University (contact: tel: (+49-4131)78 20 51; internet: <http://www.uni-lueneburg.de/timeuse>) is a pool for contacting people who are engaged in related research work. The Federal Statistical Office and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research cooperate in this network. To obtain a network that is as large and tight-meshed as possible, the Federal Statistical Office asks all users to contact Prof. Merz, whether research on time use is underway, was completed or is a future project.

Erlend Holz, tel: (+49-611) 75-3897, e-mail: erlend.holz@statistik-bund.de

Events

9th Scientific Colloquium

Families and households in Germany – Statistical bases, scientific findings

In cooperation with the Committee on the Methodology of Statistical Surveys of the German Statistical Society, the Federal Statistical Office has organised scientific colloquia once a year since 1992 to provide a platform for the dialogue between official statisticians and the major users of statistics in science, business, politics, administration and associations.

Economic issues had been at the centre of interest of the colloquia in former years. By choosing the subject "Families and households in Germany" for the colloquium in 2000, a theme was addressed that is not only an interface between social science and statistics but also between social science and economics.

The colloquium was chaired by Prof. Dr. phil. Dr. agr. h.c. Rosemarie von Schweitzer. Dealing with the scientific and political significance of families and households, the opening paper by Prof. Dr. Max Wingen provided an overview of the whole range of topics involved. Prof. Wingen's contribution closely examined the scientific significance of families and households as well as their political importance. The author strongly advocated that family research should assume a far more inter-disciplinary perspective.

Prof. Dr. Carsten Stahmer of the Federal Statistical Office reported on the generation and macroeconomic importance of household production. His contribution focussed on the question as to how extended national accounts might help to present private activities outside the scope of gainful activities. Prof. Dr. Walter Assenmacher then talked about the outsourcing of household production in selected OECD countries.

Prof. Dr. Notburga Ott and Ms. Kristina Rust presented a co-paper on distribution analyses in consideration of time use. After describing a number of approaches put forward in the specialist literature on how to include household production in distribution analyses, they set forth some empirical results of distribution analyses based on time budget information.

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Buchholz reported on political concepts and distribution effects of the equalisation of burdens scheme for families. His contribution systematically compared the major norms that may serve to justify various forms of tax relief for and transfer payments to families.

The first day of the colloquium was concluded with a ceremony celebrating the presentation of the Gerhard Fürst Award by the President of the Federal Statistical Office, which is described in detail in the article below.

On the second day of the colloquium, Dr. Sabine Bechtold of the Federal Statistical Office talked about the further development of the system of household samples in official statistics. She pointed out that the considerations concerning a move towards annual household budget surveys and on setting up an access panel played a central role for the further development of household samples into a consistent overall system.

Dr. Holger Fabig's contribution dealt with income dynamics and social mobility. Using panel data from Germany, Great Britain and the United States, he analysed the differences at the international level, on the one hand, and between western and eastern Germany, on the other.

Prof. Dr. Klaus R. Allerbeck talked about family formation by young adults. He presented the results of a panel study from 1983 to 1997, putting emphasis on plans for life, life cycles and especially family planning.

The colloquium was concluded with the contribution by Jan Marbach who outlined the changes and developments of various forms of family life in Germany, using information from a family survey conducted by the Deutsches Jugendinstitut (German Youth Institute).

A volume containing all the contributions presented at the scientific colloquium will be published in 2001 as part of the Federal Statistical Office's publication series "Forum der Bundesstatistik".

Christian König, tel: (+49-611) 75-2077, e-mail: christian.koenig@statistik-bund.de

Gerhard Fürst Award of the Federal Statistical Office

Since 1999, the Federal Statistical Office has granted annually an Award for outstanding doctoral theses and diploma or master's dissertations which discuss theoretical aspects that are closely related to the functions of official statistics or study empirical issues using official statistical data. The topics may range from theoretical statistics through economic or social statistics to economics or social sciences. The aim the Federal Statistical Office pursues in granting the Gerhard Fürst Award is to promote research into issues of official statistics in university training and to intensify the cooperation between the academic community and the bodies of official statistics.

By naming the Award after its first President, the Federal Statistical Office wishes to honour that man who essentially shaped the organisational and legal structure of the system of official statistics in Germany after 1945. Besides, as the Chairman of the German Statistical Society for many years, Mr. Fürst substantially helped German statistics to acquire a good reputation at home and abroad.

The endowment provided for a doctoral thesis amounts to EUR 5,000 and for a diploma/master's dissertation to EUR 2,500. As an exception, the endowments can also be shared among the authors of several papers worthy of winning the prize. The jury may award a promotion prize for very good papers which do not fully meet the Award's high demands but offer a valuable contribution to the scientific discussion of official statistics issues. The respective endowments are EUR 2,000 for doctoral theses and EUR 1,000 for diploma/master's dissertations. The jury may also decide not to grant any award if none of the papers submitted seems to be worthy of winning the prize.

The award-winning papers may be published - if suitable in excerpts - in the Federal Statistical Office's series "Spektrum Bundesstatistik" (Spectrum of Federal Statistics). In any case, the winners should publish an article outlining their work in the Office's monthly publication "Wirtschaft und Statistik" (Economy and Statistics).

The high scientific demands made by the Federal Statistical Office in providing the Award are ensured by the scientists appointed to the jury:

- Prof. Dr. Hans Wolfgang Brachinger, Seminar for Statistics, University of Freiburg/Switzerland;
- Prof. Dr. Richard Hauser, Institute for Economics, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main;
- Prof. Dr. Ullrich Heilemann, Rhine-Westphalia Institute for Economic Research, Essen;
- Prof. Dr. Johannes Huinink, Institute for Sociology, University of Rostock;
- Prof. Dr. Walter Müller, Chair of Empirical Social Research Methods and Applied Sociology, University of Mannheim;
- Prof. Dr. Werner Neubauer, Institute for Statistics and Mathematics, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main.

Suitable papers in the German or English language may exclusively be proposed for the Award by the tutoring professors. The papers must have been finally assessed in the two preceding years, getting at least the grade "good" or "magna cum laude", and must not have been submitted for or have been granted any other award. The submission deadline for the Gerhard Fürst Award is 31 March of each year.

In 2000, the jury decided to split up the Gerhard Fürst Award and the endowment in the category doctoral theses. Two theses were found to be equally eligible for the Award: the thesis by Werner Bönnte on "Der Einfluß industrieller Forschung und Entwicklung auf die Produktivitätsentwicklung in der deutschen Industrie" (University of Hamburg) and the thesis by Klaus Eberl on "Theorie und Empirie der Geldnachfrage: Eine saisonale Kointegrationsanalyse liquiditätsorientierter Geldmengen" (Catholic University of Eichstätt). Dr. Bönnte is a research assistant at the Institute for Allocation and Competition of Hamburg University, Dr. Eberl works as research assistant at the Chair of Economics, especially of Economic Theory, of the Economics Department Ingolstadt of the Catholic University of Eichstätt. In the category diploma and master's dissertations, the award was granted for the paper by Henning Lohmann on "Potentiale der Nutzung von Ausgabedaten in der empirischen Armutsforschung - Bedarfsschätzung und Messung von Armut auf Basis der Einkommens- und Verbrauchsstichprobe (EVS) 1993" (University of Bielefeld). Mr. Lohmann is a research assistant at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research of the University of Mannheim. Besides, a promotion prize was granted to the doctoral thesis by Leontine von Kulmiz on "Die geringere Entlohnung weiblicher Arbeitnehmer, Lohndifferenzierung oder Lohndiskriminierung?" (Johannes Gutenberg-University, Mainz). Dr. von Kulmiz is a staff member of the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics North Rhine-Westphalia.

The Awards were presented to the winners on the occasion of the 9th Scientific Colloquium on the topic "Families and households in Germany - Statistical bases, scientific findings", which was held on 23 and 24 November 2000 by the Federal Statistical Office in cooperation with the German Statistical Society.

For more information about the Gerhard Fürst Award, please contact the Federal Statistical Office:
Tel: (+49-611) 75-2695; e-mail: institut@statistik-bund.de