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The catchword

Methods of the federal statistics – Further development

Events

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on this publication:

Division B 2,
tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 20 77
fax: +49 (0) 611 / 75 39 50
institut@destatis.de

General information
on the data supply:

Information service,
tel:+49 (0) 611 / 75 24 05
fax: +49 (0) 611 / 75 33 30
https://www.destatis.de/.../kontakt

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The catchword

Satisfaction surveys based on a life situations model

The core element of the Federal Government Programme for Bureaucracy Reduction and Better Regulation is measuring, in line with Standard Cost Model (SCM) methodology, the administrative costs incurred by the business sector on account of information obligations, and extending these measurements to determine the entire compliance costs caused by regulatory proposals of the Federation.

Despite the Federal Government's proven track record of implementing bureaucracy reduction schemes, it is often pointed out in public discussion that the measures taken to reduce administrative costs are not really noticed by the parties concerned. The Federal Government reacted to this criticism in its Work Programme on Better Regulation 2014 and entrusted the Federal Statistical Office to conduct a survey among citizens and businesses about their satisfaction with public services, based on a life situations model.

Selection of life situations

A life situation is defined as a special event with further consequences that causes citizens and businesses to interact with the public authorities. First, the life situations of citizens and businesses were selected which the study was to cover. To this end, the Federal Statistical Office prepared a list of potential situations for inclusion, 36 for citizens and 22 for businesses.

By means of a preliminary online survey asking 1,000 people about life events incidence and their general satisfaction with public authorities' performance, 20 life situations of citizens were selected for the satisfaction survey. The survey of businesses will cover ten situations selected in consultation with associations and trade unions on the basis of a list of suggestions. The following table shows the situations selected:

Citizens		Businesses
Unemployment	Starting a second job	Business start-up
Death of a family member/close friend	Poverty in old age	Appointment of employees
	Retirement	Discontinuation/transfer of business
Financial problems	Buying a property	
Long-term sickness	Government help with childcare	Finance/taxes
Care dependency		Participation in tendering process
Disability	Marriage/same-sex partnership	Construction of an establishment
Vocational training/higher education	Voluntary work for a club or society	Research and development
Moving house	Divorce/dissolution of same-sex partnership	Education and continuing training
Driving licence/vehicle registration	Birth of a child	Health and safety at work
Beginning of career	Patient decree	Importing and exporting

'Journeys through the corridors of public administration'

The subject of analysis are the public authorities that citizens and businesses are in contact with in a specific life situation. It is therefore necessary to define which contacts with public authorities are relevant for ('typical' of) a situation. The Federal Statistical Office drafted a proposal as to which contacts with public authorities may be relevant in the situations selected and discussed it with the parties concerned and with experts. As a result, guidelines are available for each life situation which provide an idea of what to do when and who to contact. These 'journeys through the corridors of public administration' are published on the internet at www.amtlich-einfach.de.

Survey covering satisfaction, service quality, and trust

The statistical value representing respondents' satisfaction with and trust in a public authority results from the interplay of 16 different indicators. Citizens and businesses are asked to comment upon each of them. The 16 indicators listed in the following fall into three categories: satisfaction with public authorities (nos. 1 to 12), trust in public authorities (nos. 13 to 15), and comprehensibility of legal bases (no. 16).

Satisfaction indicators

1. Identification of procedural stages
2. Access to the information required
3. Comprehensibility and completeness of information
4. Option of e-government
5. Access to the right office
6. Waiting times
7. Opening hours
8. Spatial accessibility
9. Information on the further course of action
10. Helpfulness of staff
11. Expertise of staff
12. Overall duration of process
13. Integrity
14. Impartiality
15. Trustworthiness of the authority
16. Comprehensibility of the law

From January to March 2015, 5,666 citizens were selected on a representative basis and interviewed about their contacts with public authorities in 7,250 individual life situations. In the business sector, about 1,900 interviews will be conducted on business life situations with randomly selected enterprises until the end of June. In order to limit the time needed for the enquiry, respondents' satisfaction with no more than three 'typical' instances of contact with public authorities per life situation are covered in detail, using the 16 indicators. In addition, respondents are asked how content they are 'all in all' with at most five other public authorities.

Outlook

First preliminary results were presented at a Federal Press Conference on 23 April 2015. Detailed results of the satisfaction surveys will be made available to the public at www.amtlich-einfach.de in summer 2015. The perceptions of citizens and enterprises will be used to identify those strengths and weaknesses of public authorities which would be worth a detailed analysis of causes.

Bernd Schmidt, tel: +49-(0)611 / 75 26 32, e-mail: bernd.schmidt@destatis.de

Daniel Kühnhenrich, tel: +49-(0)611 / 75 46 72, e-mail: daniel.kuehnhenrich@destatis.de

Christian Zipse, tel: +49-(0)611 / 75 32 90, e-mail: christian.zipse@destatis.de

Carsten Hornbach, tel: +49-(0)611 / 75 47 64, e-mail: carsten.hornbach@destatis.de

Methods of federal statistics - Further development

"Utilising TREMOD for air emissions reporting in environmental-economic accounts"

Introduction:

Air emissions reporting in environmental-economic accounts (Umweltökonomische Gesamtrechnungen - UGR) started with a small CO2 table by economic branches at the annual UGR press conference in 1996, while more comprehensive tables have been published in the UGR volumes of tables since 2003. Since 2011 such reporting has been a legal requirement. Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2011 obliges the Member States to supply comprehensive and detailed national emission tables for the most recent and the three preceding years not later than 21 months after the reference year[1]. The reports should cover 14 air pollutants (from reporting year 2015 for 15 air pollutants) by polluting economic branch in the C*64 breakdown of the NACE classification of economic activities.

A central variable of the new EU air emissions reporting is the reference to the traditional air emissions reporting systems (Kyoto reporting and CLRTAP), which is integrated in the questionnaires. UGR air emissions reporting is based on the resident concept, as is national accounting, while the traditional systems are based on a territorial concept. To ensure the comparability of the concepts, the questionnaire requires bridging items to be supplied. These bridging items are used especially to allocate the emissions of the different modes of transport, i.e. "emissions of residents caused abroad" are allocated to residents emissions and "emissions of non-residents in the territory" to territorial emissions. Transport emissions are a major focus of UGR reporting. Therefore it was very helpful that the IFEU Institut Heidelberg, which had set up a calculation model for transport emissions (**TREMOD** – **TR**ansport **E**mission **MOD**el) for the Federal Environment Agency, could be recruited to develop a supplementary TREMOD module for UGR.

TREMOD module for UGR

In the TREMOD model, "energy consumption and pollutant emissions of motor transport in Germany"[2] are calculated and updated annually. The Federal Environment Agency uses these figures for its emissions reporting. Road transport, which is the most important sector in terms of complexity, scope and relevance, can directly be used for UGR air emissions reporting. Although the other transport sectors are covered by TREMOD, too, they cannot be used for reports based on the resident concept[3]. However, these TREMOD figures are important as a reference.

The TREMOD model on road transport includes a database containing stock, energy and emission data on the total of the motor vehicles registered in Germany on reference date 1 January. The stock and emission data are broken down by up to seven variables. The following variables are applied: basic types of motor vehicles (15), vehicle emission classes (roughly 300), cubic capacity classes (12), road types (3), pollutant types (roughly 70), size class segments (roughly 500) and economic branches or occupations (5). For UGR air emissions accounting, the motor vehicles and their consumption and emission data have to be allocated to economic branches[4]. To do so, every year until reporting year 2013 the UGR unit acquired stock data from the Federal

[1] The first reference year was the year when the regulation entered into force (2011) and the first reporting year was 2013 (data transmission not later than at the end of September of the reporting year).

[2] IFEU Institut Heidelberg, 2014, commissioned by the Federal Environment Agency: Update of the "Data and calculation model: energy consumption and pollutant emissions of motor transport in Germany, 1960-2030" (TREMOD) for emissions reporting, 2015 (reporting period 1990-2013)

[3] This is not necessary as the Federal Statistical Office has energy-related and emission-related data on these transport sectors (water transport, air transport and pipelines).

[4] The EU regulation on air emissions reporting requires a breakdown of emissions by economic branch according to the C*64 aggregation level of the NACE classification of economic activities (Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community).

Motor Transport Authority, broken down by 23 NACE branches, and combined them with the TREMOD data in a complex procedure. However, the required integration of the two large data packages was not only highly time consuming but also unsatisfactory in methodological terms. This is because some stock variables of the Federal Motor Transport Authority (especially emission and size class data) could be allocated to the corresponding TREMOD variables only through estimations. So it was still necessary to improve the unsatisfactory situation regarding the allocation of road transport emissions. In 2014, the IFEU Institut agreed to generate an interface in its TREMOD model which allows to classify the TREMOD data by economic branch. In other words, the TREMOD database which is made available for UGR now includes the additional variable "economic branch".

The cooperation with IFEU, which started in 2014, is entirely positive because (1) the data situation has substantially improved and (2) on the whole, costs are reduced as it is no longer necessary to acquire stock data from the Federal Motor Transport Authority. Perhaps the most important positive effect of the intensive cooperation with the IFEU Institut is that far-reaching coherence with the publications of the Federal Environment Agency has been reached and that UGR can benefit from the state of the art in road transport and its emissions.

Dr. Joachim Thomas, tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 26 90, e-mail: joachim.thomas@destatis.de

Introducing the variable "orders on hand" in the monthly report in manufacturing

The "monthly report on establishments of manufacturing, mining and quarrying" collects major monthly key figures on the economic development of the industry in Germany. Together with the monthly production statistics, the data of the monthly report are used to calculate major short-term indicators such as the index of new orders, the production index and the turnover index. Data for the monthly report are collected from all industrial establishments with 50 or more person employed. The report covers variables on the number of person employed, on turnover, new orders, hours worked, and remuneration, although not all variables are collected in all economic branches.

Since January 2014, the new variable "orders on hand" has been covered by the monthly report on establishments of manufacturing. Orders on hand are an indicator of orders not completed and can be used to better assess the extent of short-term economic growth. During the economic crisis in 2008/2009 it turned out that, although orders were placed, many of them were cancelled afterwards. However, there were no reliable data on this development. A large number of cancellations may indicate an economic slowdown, whereas a growing number of orders on hand shows a positive economic development. Adding "orders on hand" to the existing short-term indicators has been necessary for providing a complete and more consistent set of indicators to rapidly assess the current economic situation.

"Orders on hand" at the level of establishments are also a major key figure for planning in the enterprises. In business reports the figure is often communicated as forward-looking information on the enterprise's development. In the monthly report on the manufacturing establishments, orders on hand are covered in a breakdown by domestic and foreign orders.

The delimitation of orders on hand is based, among other things, on the following definitions:

- Orders on hand comprise the total of new orders received by the end of the reference month which have not led to any turnover and have not been cancelled by that time.

- Orders should be included only if they have been received, definitely accepted and not yet completed.
- Orders received in earlier months and cancelled in the reference month have to be subtracted from the orders on hand for the current report.
- Turnover tax and discounts granted directly should be subtracted.
- For large-scale orders whose completion affects several reference months, the value not yet produced (that is, the part of the order not having produced any turnover yet) should be included in orders on hand.

Orders on hand are covered only for selected economic branches, as are new orders. The collection and monthly processing of the data is a task of the statistical offices of the Länder, whereas the Federal Statistical Office is responsible for the methodological preparation and enhancement of the statistics, the compilation of Länder results to obtain a federal result and the publication of the latter.

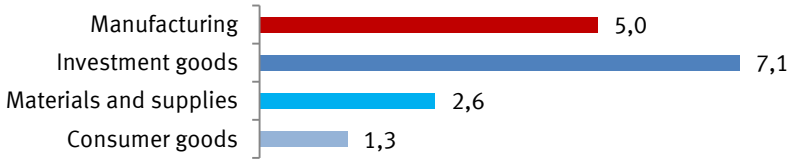
The data on "orders on hand" will mainly be used for an index of orders on hand for Germany. Basically, calculating the index will be based on the same methodology and breakdown as are the existing indices of new orders and of turnover. Such indices are value and volume indices, with a base year fixed for five years, for which seasonally and working day adjusted monthly results are available. As a history is required for seasonal adjustment, the index of orders on hand cannot be introduced until the indices have been put on the new base year 2015, which will not happen before mid-2017.

In the meantime it is planned to release on a monthly basis the rates of change of the total orders on hand in the German industry. This refers to changes on the same month of the previous year, which are less affected by seasonal influences than changes on the previous month. As there are substantial differences between economic branches as regards the development of orders on hand, the results are broken down by economic branch.

Also, "ranges" of orders on hand are calculated for every economic branch. This is the ratio between the total of orders on hand and the total of turnover in the relevant branch. The data on orders on hand thus provide information not only for short-term economic monitoring but also on the industrial structure in Germany. The ratio between orders on hand and turnover can be interpreted as the "range of orders on hand, in months". The range indicates for how many months an establishment would be able to, or would have to, produce goods - with turnover remaining constant, without any new orders being received and without cancellations - to complete all orders on hand. To eliminate the influence of infra-annual fluctuations in turnover on the range, a moving 12-month average of the turnover total in the branch is used as a turnover figure. The chart below shows ranges of orders on hand for manufacturing as a whole[1] and for main industrial groupings in January 2015.

Range of orders on hand in April 2015, months

(orders on hand, related to moving 12-month average of turnover)



The results on orders on hand will be published from reference month April 2015 at www.destatis.de under "Industry, Manufacturing".

Dr. Stefan Linz, tel: +49-(0)611 / 75 44 75, e-mail: stefan.linz@destatis.de

[1] Here the term "manufacturing" refers only to the 12 selected economic branches for which orders on hand and new orders are collected.

MUSE – a new element of the electronic causes of death statistics

Current situation and background

The causes of death statistics provide the basis for calculating important health indicators such as mortality rates, years of life lost and avoidable mortality. To this end, the causes of all deaths are recorded and coded according to the standardised system of ICD-10 (International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems)[1]. Information on the "underlying cause of death" is then incorporated into the causes of death statistics of the Federation and the Länder.

However, the quality and informational value of the statistics have come under critical scrutiny:

Incorrect or incomplete cause of death certificates do not fully meet the information requirements of the statistics.

Processing data on these very complex issues manually may cause bias in the statistics because ICD-10 is based on a comprehensive set of rules which requires coding staff at the statistical offices of the Länder to have many years of practice.

The selection of the underlying cause of death goes along with a reduction in information so that it is not possible to carry out further analyses of important medical data in the certificate of cause of death.

How does the MUSE software work?

The "**M**ulticausal and **U**nicausal **S**election **E**ngine" (MUSE) is a software that has been developed by the Federal Statistical Office and is used by statistical offices of the Länder for the standardised electronic processing of cause of death certificates.[2]

MUSE converts the textual rules governing ICD-10 into a user-friendly software program. The intuitive and innovative user interface makes even complex decisions and checks transparent and comprehensible to the coding staff at the statistical offices of the Länder.

Chart 1 shows a section of the MUSE user interface: The interface displays the diagnoses and the time data recorded by the physicians as well as the identified multicausal ICD-10 codes (in blue). Part II shows, for example, that the atherosclerosis of arteries of extremities, which was first diagnosed 20 years (***20Y***) prior to death, was coded as ***I702*** according to ICD-10.

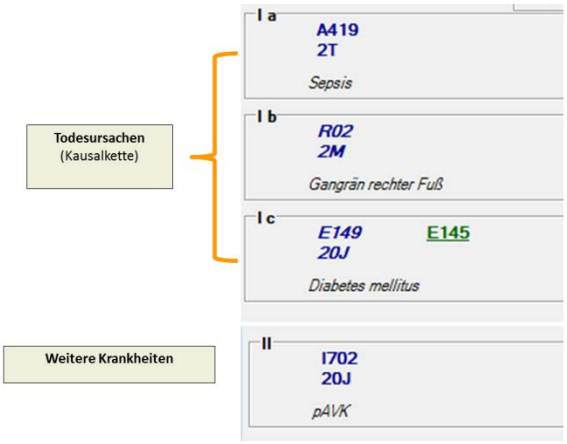


Chart 1: MUSE section – user interface with explanations.

The MUSE algorithm identifies the underlying cause of death in strict accordance with the ICD-10 rules. By means of the coding protocol (Chart 2), the coding specialist is able to keep track of and understand the sequence of checks and decisions. In this example, diabetes mellitus ***(E149)*** is provisionally selected as the underlying cause of death at the first stage of checking (referred to as basic rule G). Stage C incorporates further diagnoses that are indicated on the cause of death certificate. The gangrene (***R02***) and the atherosclerosis of arteries of extremities (***I702***) are circulatory complications of diabetes. For that reason, code ***E149*** is modified and combination code ***E145*** is chosen as the "final" underlying cause of death.

[1] See http://www.dimdi.de/static/en/klassi/icd-10-who/index.htm

[2] Further information on MUSE is available from the Iris Institute: https://www.dimdi.de/static/en/klassi/irisinstitute/about-iris/poster-q2014-muse.pdf

Nr	Regel	UC	?	Meldung
1				START DER SELEKTION: A419(2T)/R02(2M)/E149(20J)*1702(20J)
2	G			(+) E149 ist Ursache für die anderen Kodes in Teil I!
3		E149		Auswahl: E149 =Nicht näher bezeichneter Diabetes mellitus: Ohne Komplikationen (06.02.1993 00:00:00)
4	C			(+) Zusammenführung: Ersetzen von E149(20Jahre) und R02(2Monate) durch E145 (TU aus Teil I bevorzugt)
5		E145		Auswahl: E145 =Nicht näher bezeichneter Diabetes mellitus: Mit peripheren vaskulären Komplikationen

Chart 2: MUSE coding protocol

Improving quality by making full use of MUSE

Ideally, the cause of death at the end of what is known as the causal chain (diabetes mellitus in the example above) is selected as the underlying cause of death and integrated in the statistics. Analyses of more than 67,000 cause of death certificates have however revealed that the algorithm modifies the underlying cause of death in roughly 56% of the certificates. Checks resulting in modifications require profound medical knowledge. Due to the high percentage of modifications, it is essential for the quality of the causes of death statistics that the statistical offices of the Länder should make full and efficient use of the MUSE software and discontinue the still widely practiced manual coding. MUSE decisions are based on an internationally harmonised medical knowledge database for mortality statistics, which comprises approximately 180,000 detailed instructions.

Also, depending on the quality of the data delivered, 50–70% of the cause of death certificates can be coded automatically (without further checks or corrections of textual errors).

Increased information through multicausal evaluations

The potential of multicausal evaluations can be outlined here using the cause of death "sepsis" as an example: Sepsis[1] is coded as the underlying cause of death for only 0.7% of the deaths included in the aforementioned stock of data. Although sepsis is mentioned, other diseases, such as pneumonia or diabetes mellitus with circulatory complications (see example above), are mostly recorded in the unicausal causes of death statistics. When a multicausal perspective is adopted, that is, when all diagnoses are taken into account, a very different picture emerges: in 5.1% of the cause of death certificates covered, "sepsis" is stated as the cause of death.

Electronic capture of cause of death certificates is indispensable

As of 15 May 2015, four Land statistical offices were using the electronic IRIS coding system with the MUSE coding core to full extent (that is, for processing the electronic data transmissions of all public health offices in the Land concerned). As most of the German public health offices do not yet meet their obligation for electronic data delivery, it is not possible to process their cause of death certificates electronically[2]. In individual Länder, ministerial orders have not yet been adjusted to the requirements of the nationally applicable Federal Statistics Law[3].

There are several software products that the German public health offices may use for the electronic capture and safe transmission of data and that meet the requirements of the electronic eSTATISTIK core reporting system. Besides software modules that are well integrated into the information systems of the public health offices and have proved effective for many years, the Federal Statistical Office offers the CORE reporter software for a quick start.[4]

[1] ICD-10 definition of sepsis as shown in table 1 on page 61 of the German Coding Guidelines 2015 (available at http://www.g-drg.de).

[2] The obligation to deliver the data electronically has applied since 1 August 2013 pursuant to Article 11a of the Federal Statistics Law of 22 January 1987 (Federal Law Gazette I, pp. 462, 565), last amended by Article 13 of the Law of 25 July 2013 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 2749).

[3] In North Rhine-Westphalia, for example, a Circular on "Cause of Death Certificates" issued by the Ministry for Health, Social Affairs, Women and Family on 25 July 2003 stipulates in paragraph 4 that data be delivered in "paper-based" form (last accessed on 15 May 2015 at https://recht.nrw.de).

[4] See https://erhebungsportal.estatistik.de/Erhebungsportal/.

Conclusion

MUSE and the underlying knowledge database are continually improved through international cooperation. By using MUSE to full extent, the statistical offices of the Länder ensure that up-to-date medical knowledge is applied in coding cause of death certificates.

The currently inconsistent approach (manual and electronic coding) gives reason to assume that the quality is adversely affected. Where they have not yet done so, the statistical offices of the Länder should switch over as soon as possible to electronic coding using Iris and MUSE, which has proved reliable for several years.

After the transition to electronic coding, the quality, informational value and the range of information provided by the causes of death statistics can be expected to improve.

Dr. Olaf Eckert, tel: +49 (0)228 / 99643-8176, e-mail: olaf.eckert@destatis.de

Proportional model calculation to show the integrated debt of municipalities and associations of municipalities

Background

The transfer of public functions to units outside the core administration poses new challenges for the statistics of public finance and public service personnel. Functions are transferred from the municipal core budgets to public funds, institutions and enterprises (*öffentliche Fonds, Einrichtungen und Unternehmen - FEU*), such as municipal enterprises without legal capacity, special-purpose associations, or public enterprises under private law. To obtain an overall picture of public finance statistics for municipalities and associations of municipalities, it is necessary to combine the debt of core budgets with that of public funds, institutions and enterprises.

Annual debt statistics cover not only the debt of core budgets but also the debt of all funds, institutions and enterprises under majority public control.[1] The definition of debt generally comprises loans for strengthening cash resources, loans from the non-public sector, and securities debt. The methodological challenge faced now is how to allocate the FEU debt to the municipality core budgets.

At the municipal level, the standard publications of the statistical offices of the Länder include only part of the debt of public funds, institutions and enterprises. The debt is allocated to the municipality where the unit is located. As several municipalities/associations of municipalities may hold stakes in a public fund, institution or enterprise, this kind of presentation leads to biases. Also, the debt of multi-Land FEUs cannot be allocated by an individual Land Statistical Office.

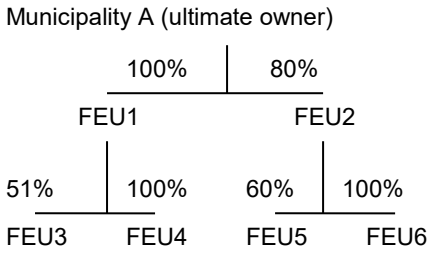
Methodological approach

The proportional model calculation is a cross-Land approach allowing an adequate allocation of the debt of multi-Land FEUs and breaking down the debt of FEUs to individual municipalities. The centrepiece of the proportional model calculation is the combination of the stakes file[2] (including the stored owner structures of the FEUs) with the results of the annual debt statistics.

[1] See Section 5 in conjunction with Section 2 of the Law on the Statistics of Public Finance and Public Service Personnel.

[2] The stakes file is a central element in managing the group of respondents who report data to the statistics of public finance and public service personnel. It is maintained by the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder.

The municipal stakes are shown in the form of a corporate structure based on the stakes file. The municipal core budget is the "ultimate owner", which has a direct or indirect stake in specific FEUs. Based on that stake, a corresponding proportion of the debt of these FEUs is allocated to the ultimate owner.



In a first step, the direct stakes are identified (FEU1 and FEU2 in the above example).

Owner	FEU*)	Stake	Owner status: Relationship with the ultimate owner
Municipality A	FEU1	100	direct
Municipality A	FEU2	80	direct
FEU1	FEU3	51	indirect
FEU1	FEU4	100	indirect
FEU2	FEU5	60	indirect
FEU2	FEU6	100	indirect

*) Public funds, institutions and enterprises

In a second step, the indirect stakes are allocated to the ultimate owner. This is done by means of the statistics-specific identifiers. The indirect stakes are allocated to the direct stakes ascertained in the first step.

In the proportional model calculation for an inter-municipal debt comparison, the financial data are allocated according to the calculated proportions of voting rights. Based on the owner chain established, the stakes of the core budget (ultimate owner) are calculated for any reporting unit (FEU) in which the core budget holds an indirect stake.

For any direct stake, the calculated proportion corresponds to the core budget's stake in the reporting unit. For any indirect stake, the proportions of voting rights calculated on the basis of the owner chain are multiplied with each other.

Ultimate owner	Level0	Level1	FEU*)	Calculated proportion of voting rights
Municipality A	FEU1	-	FEU1	100%
Municipality A	FEU1	FEU3	FEU3	100 * 51 / 100 = 51%
Municipality A	FEU1	FEU4	FEU4	100 * 100 / 100 = 100%
Municipality A	FEU2	-	FEU2	80%
Municipality A	FEU2	FEU5	FEU5	80 * 60 / 100 = 48%
Municipality A	FEU2	FEU6	FEU6	80 * 100 / 100 = 80%

*) Public funds, institutions and enterprises

In a last step, these structures are combined with the debt volume reported, so that an integrated presentation of the debt at the municipal level can be made.

First application of the method

These calculations were performed for the debt in 2012. The results were supplied to the statistical offices of the Länder and published in the current joint publication of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder entitled "Integrierte Schulden der Gemeinden und Gemeindeverbände 2012" at www.destatis.de.

Chart 3. Extract from the publication "Integrierte Schulden der Gemeinden und Gemeindeverbände 2012"

Tabelle 1: Schulden der kommunalen Ebene beim nicht öffentlichen Bereich am 31.12.2012 in Schleswig-Holstein nach Höhe der Beteiligung des Kernhaushalts an öffentlichen Fonds, Einrichtungen und Unternehmen

Regional-schlüssel	Gemeinde/ Gemeindeverband	Verwaltungs-form[1]	Einwohner am 30.6.2012[2]	Schulden des öffentlichen Bereichs insgesamt	Schulden je Einwohner	Schulden des öffentlichen Gesamthaushalts						Anteilige Schulden der sonstigen öffentlichen Fonds, Einrichtungen und Unternehmen[3]			
						zusammen	Schulden des Kernhaushalts	anteilige Schulden der Extrahaushalte[3]				zusammen	davon Beteiligungen des Kernhaushalts von ...		
								zusammen	davon Beteiligungen des Kernhaushalts von ...						
									100%	50% bis unter 100%	unter 50%		100%	50% bis unter 100%	unter 50%
				EUR											
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
010010000000	Flensburg, Stadt	Kreisfreie Stadt	82 835	439 847 858	5 310	334 416 522	110 119 663	224 296 859	222 878 855	1 140 654	277 350	105 431 336	76 562 283	127 710	28 741 343
010020000000	Kiel, Landeshauptstad	Kreisfreie Stadt	237 906	821 294 577	3 452	544 769 004	535 999 631	8 769 373	7 925 440	717 724	126 210	276 525 573	165 467 673	8 288 330	102 769 570
010030000000	Lübeck, Hansestadt	Kreisfreie Stadt	211 212	1 288 728 735	6 102	690 099 709	684 578 058	5 521 651	4 814 854	4 126	702 671	598 629 027	221 605 913	324 487 639	52 535 474
010040000000	Neumünster, Stadt	Kreisfreie Stadt	77 223	332 367 387	4 304	157 241 999	154 839 231	2 402 768	2 402 768	-	-	175 125 388	113 545 213	61 580 175	-
01051	Dithmarschen	Kreis	X	111 060 125	X	85 979 995	85 979 995	-	-	-	-	25 080 130	25 080 130	-	-
010510011011	Brunsbüttel, Stadt	Stadt	12 750	26 680 582	2 093	4 741 103	4 741 103	-	-	-	-	21 939 479	16 384 659	5 554 820	-

Henry Mailahn, tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 41 86, e-mail: henry.mailahn@destatis.de

Patrizia Mödinger, tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 41 18, e-mail: patrizia.moedinger@destatis.de

Simone Scharfe, tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 46 93, e-mail: simone.scharfe@destatis.de

Events

Environmental-economic accounting project on the use of raw materials successfully completed

Raw materials are materials that can be directly obtained from the biosphere. There are, on the one hand, finite resources like crude oil, ores or commonly used material such as gravel and, on the other, renewable resources like wood or fish.

The federal government is supporting an economical and efficient use of any of these raw materials. But how to measure the use of raw materials then? Not all raw materials needed in Germany are extracted in this country; part of them are imported. Raw materials are often processed in the countries where they are extracted and then, in the form of most diverse products, indirectly imported by Germany. How to determine the relevant raw material input abroad? And how to identify the purposes for which the raw materials are finally used: To meet consumption or investment needs? And to what extent are the materials (re)exported?

And, if the relevant mass flows are known, how to interpret them? And what other economic indicators could form a useful relationship with them? To answer these questions, the environmental-economic accounts units in Bonn and Wiesbaden, together with the Federal Environment Agency and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, carried out a multiannual project on "Evaluating resource consumption, analysing causes and developing indicators at the macro and meso levels".

The project's final event took place in the Berlin Information Point on Tuesday, 28 October 2014. Many representatives of the ministries responsible for construction, environmental and economic affairs, the Federal Environment Agency and other subordinate authorities and research institutions attended the event which discussed details of the methodology applied to estimate raw material use, explained the information value of individual indicators and introduced a range

of numerical results. In coordination with the Federal Environment Agency, a detailed project report and a comprehensive volume of tables are currently being prepared. Part of the results have been included in the relevant Indicator Report on sustainable development in Germany, the Environmental and economic indicators publication and the Report on environmental-economic accounts published in December 2014.

Against the background of the current review of the German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRess), however, the results of the project are important not only at the national level. The interest in the findings of German environmental-economic accounting is high at the European level, too. Several Directorates-General of the Commission have requested consultation in view of the Europe 2020 strategy and the Greening of the European Semester. The unit of environmental-economic accounts will, within existing resources, continue to further methodological developments in the area of raw material accounting and provide relevant results.

Sven Kaumanns, tel: +49(0) 228 / 99 643 8555, e-mail: sven.kaumanns@destatis.de

8th user conference on "Research Based on the Microcensus - Social Structure and Social Change Analyses"

The 8th microcensus user conference, which took place in Mannheim on 11 and 12 November 2014, was organised and held by the German Microdata Lab (GML) of GESIS, the Federal Statistical Office (Section F203 "Households and Families") and the research data centres of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder. The target group of user conferences generally comprises researchers who work with or are interested in microcensus data. Besides providing a forum for presenting and discussing the research findings obtained on the basis of these official statistics, the conferences promote an exchange of experience among data users and between the data users and the statistical offices as data producers.

All in all, 70 participants attended the 8th user conference which comprised seven meetings and a total of 22 talks and presentations. They discussed issues such as the job search of people in atypical employment, shortage of skilled workers, work preferences of mothers, income situation of self-employed people, and further aspects of the labour market participation of various groups of people. Other topics discussed in addition to the focal themes of "labour market" and "social inequality" included partner choice, educational participation, migration-specific questions as well as methodological aspects and data quality. An innovation of the 8th user conference was the final session on current developments in official statistics. The complete programme of the user conference and all presentations are available in the events archive of GESIS GML at: http://www.gesis.org/en/events/events-archive/german-microdata-lab/.

The event again reflected the outstanding importance of the microcensus and the integrated labour force survey for social research in Germany. Especially due to the high sampling fraction, wide range of topics and continuity over time, the microcensus, the largest annual household survey in Europe, has become an indispensable data source for social sciences.

Thomas Haustein, tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 81 34, e-mail: thomas.haustein@destatis.de

Human resources - Quality aspects of education and training in empirical research

A scientific conference on "Human Resources - Quality Aspects of Education and Training in Empirical Research" was held in the Gerhard Fürst hall of the Federal Statistical Office on 18 and 19 June 2015.

"The range of vocational and academic qualifications from which young colleagues are recruited has become much wider, one reason being that academic degrees have been subdivided into Bachelor's and Master's degrees", said Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski, Head of Department at the Federal Statistical Office, as part of her welcome address to introduce the topic.

"Official statistics and market research also benefit from the top-quality apprenticeship training for future market and social research specialists", said Ms von Oppeln-Bronikowski. She expressed her thanks especially to Professor Dr. Frank Faulbaum, chairman of the board of the ASI, for his willingness to moderate the two-day event and to give the opening speech on "Battle of talents".

Prof. Faulbaum explained "that the competition of talents is shifting towards a competition of courses, of universities and, consequently, of the quality of qualifications. Courses should not disregard the aspects of technological trends and of growing internationalisation and interculturality."

The 11th scientific conference provided information on various aspects of such new trends and was organised by the Federal Statistical Office in cooperation with the Association of German Market and Social Research Institutes (ADM) and the Working Party of Social Science Institutes (ASI).

Representing the Federal Statistical Office, Sabine Köhler and Christian Bertram gave a talk on "Advanced training in official statistics".

The well-established series of common scientific conferences discusses topics which are equally interesting for market researchers, social scientists and official statistics. It provides a basis for intensive and personal exchange of information and experience between all those involved.

The programme, the short versions of the papers and information on the speakers are contained in our calendar of events. The conference volume containing the long versions of the papers will be published as a printed version and as an e-book in the ASI series of publications by Springer-VS-Verlag.

Weblinks

Human Resources - Quality Aspects of Education and Training in Empirical Research

Arbeitskreis Deutscher Markt- und Sozialforschungsinstitute e.V. (ADM)

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Sozialwissenschaftlicher Institute e.V. (ASI)

Marco Schwickerath, tel: +49 (0) 611/75 38 89, e-mail: marco.schwickerath@destatis.de